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FC FLOWER COMICS

少コミフラワーコミックス

天は赤い河のほとり 2

篠原千絵

Chie Shinohara

＊少コミフラワーコミックス＊

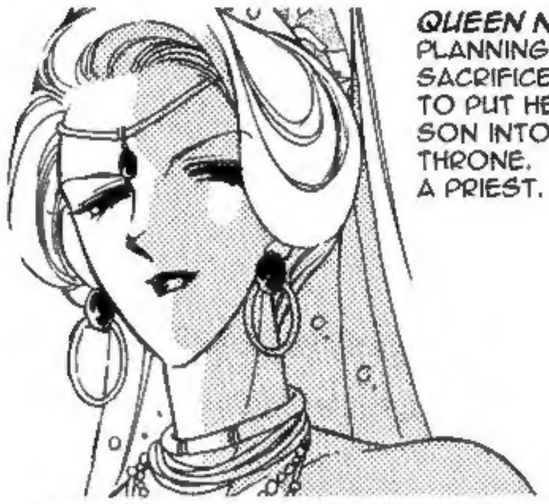
篠原千絵

天は赤い河のほとり

2

THE MAIN CHARACTERS

KAIL
THIRD PRINCE OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE. HOLDS THE RANK OF A PRIEST.



QUEEN NAKIA
PLANNING TO SACRIFICE YUURI TO PUT HER OWN SON INTO THE THRONE.
A PRIEST.

YUURI
WAS AN ORDINARY 3RD-YEAR MIDDLE SCHOOLER.
WAS BROUGHT TO ANCIENT TURKEY (HITTITE).

WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE :

YUURI IS A VERY TYPICAL MIDDLE SCHOOLER. HOWEVER, IN THE MIDDLE OF AN ENJOYABLE DATE, SHE SUDDENLY GOT PULLED INTO A PUDDLE OF WATER.

THE PLACE WHERE SHE WOKE UP WAS THE ANCIENT HITTITE EMPIRE. AS PART OF THE QUEEN'S PLOT, SHE WAS BROUGHT THROUGH SPACE-TIME TO BE SACRIFICED.

YUURI, WHOSE LIFE WAS BEING TARGETED BY THE QUEEN, WAS SAVED FROM A DANGEROUS SITUATION BY PRINCE KAIL, AND WAS HIDDEN IN HIS PALACE AS HIS "CONCUBINE".

YUURI WANTS TO RETURN TO 20TH CENTURY JAPAN, BUT TO DO SO, 3 CONDITIONS MUST BE SATISFIED. ONE IS KAIL'S PRIESTLY POWER, ONE IS FOR THE 7 SPRINGS TO BE FULL, AND ANOTHER ONE IS THE CLOTHES THAT YUURI WAS WEARING.

THOSE CLOTHES WERE IN THE QUEEN'S PALACE. SO, ALONG WITH KAIL'S SERVANT TITO, SHE SNUCK INTO THE QUEEN'S PALACE.
HOWEVER, THAT WAS THE TERRIBLE QUEEN'S TRAP. THE CAPTURED YUURI WAS ONCE AGAIN GOING TO BE KILLED AS A SACRIFICE.
BECAUSE OF TITO'S ACTION, YUURI ESCAPED THAT PLACE, TOOK BACK HER CLOTHES, AND HEADED TO LEAVE THE PALACE.
WITH THE PURSUER ONLY ONE STEP BEHIND, YUURI WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE OUTSIDE THE GATE WITH TITO'S HELP. UNFORTUNATELY, THE BOY TITO WAS CAUGHT BY THE QUEEN'S SAVAGE UNDERLING...!!

<DOON>

<DOON>

ANSWER!

<DOON>

<DOON>

ANSWER, QUEEN!

YOU IDIOT, COMING HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT LIKE THIS.

COME BACK WHEN THE SUN'S NOT DOWN.

URUHURU

Tito, please be safe.

I'll rescue you soon just please be all right!!

I'M THE 3RD PRINCE, KAIL MURSILI.

I HAVE URGENT BUSINESS WITH HER IMPERIAL MAJESTY, AND WISH TO HAVE AN AUDIENCE WITH HER.

P-

PRINCE KAIL!?

YESSIR, IMMEDIATELY!! PLEASE WAIT A MOMENT.

ISN'T IT RUDE.

TO DISRUPT THE REST OF YOUR QUEEN ?

I PRESENT PRINCE KAIL.

YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY !

OOH, I'M SO SLEEPY.

I KNOW THAT THIS IS RUDE.

I SINCERELY APOLOGIZE.

JUST A MOMENT AGO YOU WERE...

YOU WERE ASLEEP, WHAT A LIE!

YOU LIAR!!

IT'S THE BOY THAT SAVED ME FROM YOU TRYING TO KILL ME!

YOU CAN'T SAY YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HIM!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU COULD MEAN...

...A CHILD?

A BOY THAT I'VE BEEN EMPL-OYING AS MY SERVANT STRAYED INTO YOUR PALACE HERE.

BUT BY SOME MISTAKE

PLEASE RETURN HIM TO ME...!!

BUT YOU TRIED TO KILL SOME-ONE!! GIVE TITO BACK!!
IF YOU KEEP SOMEONE LIKE THIS AT YOUR SIDE, YOU'LL HARM YOUR SOCIAL STANDING, PRINCE KAIL.
OOH! WHAT A THING TO SAY TO A QUEEN.
....SO MOUTHY
YOU CONCUBINE OF THE PRINCE, YOU'LL GET THE DEATH PENALTY FOR THAT DISRESPECT TO ROYALTY.
I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING AND YOU STILL TRIED TO KILL ME!
WAIT
HMPH
I SUSPECT YOU'RE JUST PASSING ON SOME DREAM!
YOUR MAJESTY, PLEASE PERMIT ME TO SEARCH IN YOUR PALACE.
IF BY SOME CHANCE THE CHILD SNUCK IN HERE FOR NO REASON, THERE'S NO EXCUSE.

THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT.

RETURN HOME, PRINCE KAIL.

PRINCE KAIL, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN !?

I AM THE QUEEN!! THE PERSON WHO HOLDS THE TITLE OF TAVANANNA!!

NONE BUT THE EMPEROR HIMSELF MAY GIVE ME ORDERS! GO HOME!!

YOUR MAJESTY, CERTAINLY...

Tavananna !?

TITO !!

I KNOW.

PRINCE!

WE CAN'T GO HOME, TITO'S REALLY HERE!!

WHAT'S TAVANANNA!?

IT'S THE TITLE OF THE MOST POWERFUL WOMAN IN THE EMPIRE.

BUT SINCE I WAS REFUSED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE TAVANANNA,

THERE'S NOTHING MORE THAN THIS THAT I CAN DO.

LET'S HURRY TO THE ROYAL PALACE!

THE ONLY ONE HIGHER UP THAT COULD CHANGE THIS FOR US IS MY FATHER.

Tito forgive me.

It's my fault that such a thing would happen to you, forgive me.

We'll be back soon, so hold on for just a little longer!!

YOUR HIGHNESS.

WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THIS NOISE?

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GOING TO WAIT FOR AN AUDIENCE... WHY DON'T YOU WAKE HIM UP!?

LADY YUURI, YOU CAN'T DO SUCH THINGS TO HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY.

I PASSED IT ON TO THE CHAMBERLAIN HE'LL RESERVE AN AUDIENCE WITH MY FATHER FOR US.

NOW WOULD YOU GIVE ME THE REASON HE WENT WITH YOU TO THE QUEEN'S PALACE ?

BECAUSE OF THE HOUR IT'LL PROBABLY BE DIFFICULT.

I- I certainly got my clothes back though...!

IL VANI!

I CAN'T GO HOME NOW

I CAN'T GO HOME AND LEAVE TITO IN THIS SITUATION!!

AH, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE MET, YUURI. THIS IS THE CLERK OF THE IMPERIAL PALACE, IL VANI.

MY FOSTER BROTHER.

I BELIEVE THE REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN MET TO SEND YUURI-SAMA BACK HOME.

IF YOU WOULD JUST FORGET ABOUT THE CHILD AND STUFF, AND SEND HER BACK RIGHT AWAY.

WHY!?

WHY ARE YOU SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT!?

PLEASE, PREPARE FOR YOUR RETURN.

TITO MUST HAVE BEEN KILLED

PLEASE GIVE UP

THAT WOULD BE *ZUWA* OF THE *KASHGA* CLAN.

YEAH

Kashga Clan?

HE ALONE LEADS THE KASHGA, A SAVAGE NORTHERN TRIBE.

HE WORE ALL THESE JINGLY ACCESS-ORIES

ACCORDING TO WHAT I'VE HEARD, THE EMPRESS HAS BEEN USING

A LARGE SADISTIC MAN...

HE LOVES SILVER AND GOLD. THE STORIES OF HIM COLLECTING THE SKINS OF THE PEOPLE HE'S MURDERED HIMSELF ARE FAMOUS.

LET ME GO!!

IF... IF THAT'S THE CASE, ALL THE MORE REASON WE NEED TO HURRY...

YUURI!

I CAN'T LET TITO BE KILLED.

STEP ASIDE!!

YUURI CALM DOWN!

LET GO

<SCRATCH>

<SCRATCH>

THERE ARE RUMORS HE LIKES THE SMOOTH SKIN OF CHILDREN IN PARTICULAR.

AND I DON'T THINK HE WOULD OVERLOOK TITO.

I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP ON TITO.

WIL- YOU CALM DOWN?

IF I FORGOT THIS I WOULD BECOME THE SAME AS THE QUEEN.

REGARDLESS OF SOCIAL CLASS, PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE AN EQUAL RESPECT FOR LIFE.

OKAY, IL VANI.

I'LL STOP AT NOTHING TO GET TITO BACK.

.....

I'LL PUT IN AN EXTRA WORD.

IS FATHER AWAKE YET!?

GET THE CHAMBERLAIN TO HURRY!

Prince Kail...

Regardless of social class, people should have an equal respect for life.

CHATTER

CHATTER

JUST NOW, A SENTINEL CAME WITH A NOTIFICATION.

A CORPSE WAS ROLLED DOWN OUTSIDE THE EASTERN RAMPARTS.

ALSO, IT SEEMS TO BE A CHILD OF AROUND 12 OR 13...

IT'S FINE, NOW TELL ME.

WHAT'S THIS UPROAR?

I... IT'S HIS HIGHNESS KAIL.

A STORY LIKE THIS WOULD DIRTY YOUR EARS, YOUR HIGHNESS..

YOUR HIGHNESS!

SH... SHOW ME

SHOW ME THE FACE !!

KYAAAAAAAAA!!

WHAT?

...

FROM THE NECK DOWN, ALL

YOUR HIGHNESS, I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD GO FURTHER THAN THIS

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

Tito... he looked so much like my little sister Eimi.

TREMBLE

Tito was the first person in this country who could make me laugh.

AH,

I- IF YOU TOUCH IT YOUR HANDS WILL GET ALL DIRTY

...OF HIS SKIN HAS BEEN TORN OFF.

H!...

<ODAGI>

TITO!!

<GRAB>

TITO...!!

What do I say to apologize!? It's all my fault!!

I was the one that killed Tito!!

MangaReactor Credits

Donkey Community

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Provided by: Gambit

"Because the book is always better."

Artist: Gambit
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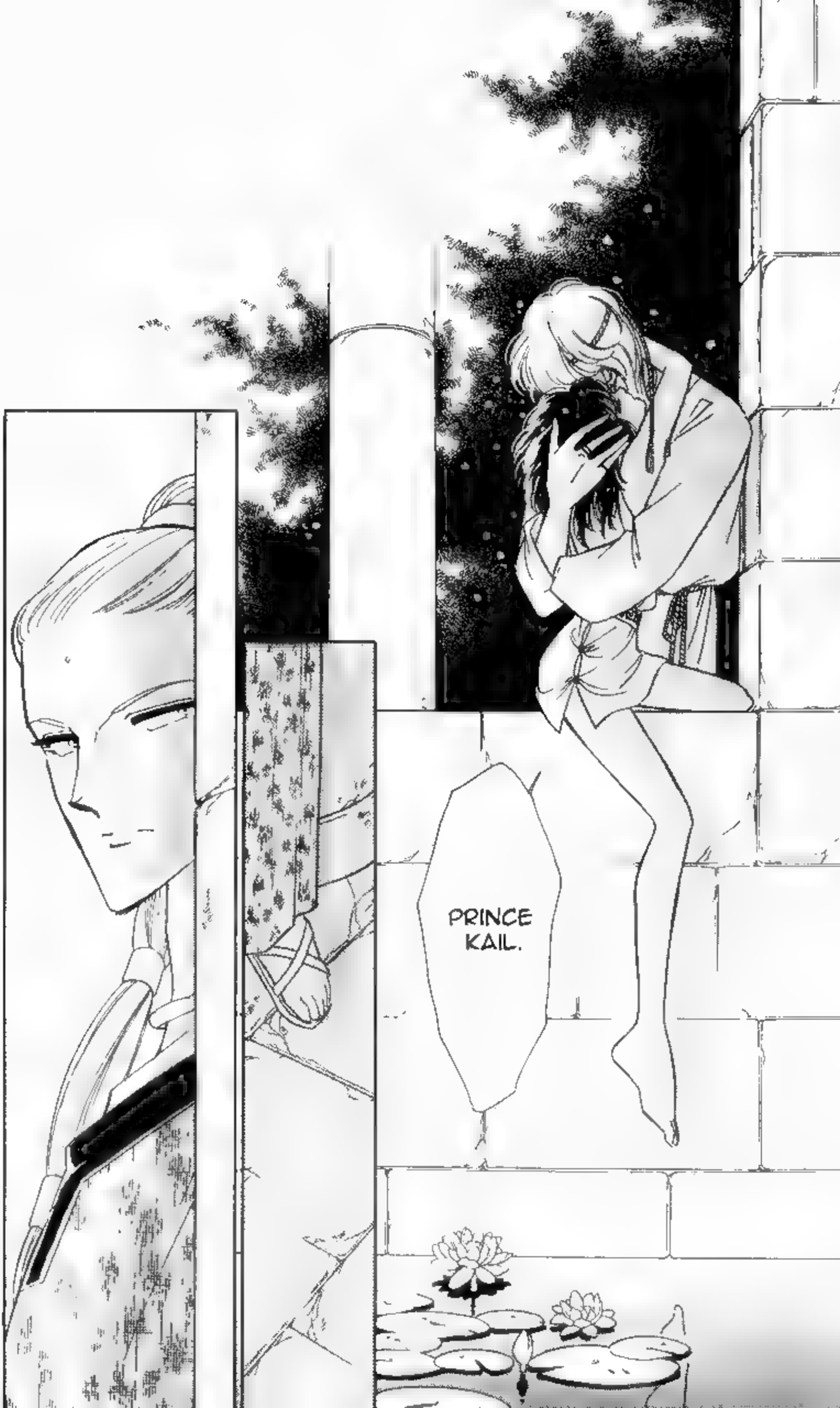
AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT ?
I DON'T THINK YOU'VE EATEN A THING SINCE THIS MORNING.
I DON'T NEED IT.
IT'S MY FAULT TITO GOT KILLED.
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING.
EVERYBODY, IT'S ALL MY FAULT!!
PRINCE, TELL ME, WHAT SHOULD I DO!?

P...
PRINCE!?
...DON'T CRY.
FOR SOME REASON I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU SAD.


PRINCE KAIL.

PARDON ME, YOUR HIGHNESS.
YOU MAY WANT TO HURRY...
IL VANI !?
HURRY FOR WHAT ?
THE PREPARATIONS TO SEND LADY YUURI TO HER OWN COUNTRY, OF COURSE.
THE ASTRO-NOMERS HAVE BEEN INVEST-IGATING.
TOMORROW AT DAWN WHEN YOU CAN SEE THE MORNING STAR IS THE LIMIT OF THIS YEAR'S WATER SEASON.
IF YOU MISS THIS, YOU WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR ONE YEAR. PLEASE PREPARE SWIFTLY...

Tomorrow...
... I'll return home!?
SEND...
...YUURI BACK?

In 6 hours I can go home to my family!!

THE WATER LEVELS OF THE 7 WELLS WITHIN HATTUSA'S WALLS ARE RISING.
THERE'S STILL ANOTHER QUARTER OF A DAY BEFORE DAWN WHEN THEY'LL BE COMPLETELY FULL.

I can return to the 20th century!!

ARE THINGS READY ON YOUR END, TOO?
YUURI.
I should be cheerful...
...UH HUH...

Yuuri-sama, I...
...Want you to stay here.
Tito!!
LADY YUURI, YOU'RE REALLY GOING HOME, AREN'T YOU?
WE'LL MISS YOU.
Wh... What can I do in this country?
In the 20th century I'm just a middle-school kid in Japan!
I don't plan on forgetting Tito, but I can't do anything about it.

.....
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU REALLY ARE GOING TO SEND LADY YUURI HOME, RIGHT?
.....
THAT'S WHAT I'VE SAID. WHY ARE YOU REMINDING ME, IL VANI?
I CAN FINALLY GO HOME, I'M GOING HOME!
I'M GOING HOME...

I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED THAT YOU HAD FORGOTTEN ...
UP UNTIL NOW YOU'VE TURNED DOWN ALL MARRIAGE PROPOSALS AND LIVED AS A BACHELOR FOR SOME REASON.
WHEN I HEARD THAT YOU HAD TAKEN IN A CONCUBINE.
IT'S JUST FINE, THEN.

ANYWAY, I THINK IT'S BEST FOR YUURI TO RETURN TO HER COUNTRY.
...NO.
AND YET...
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN MY GOAL.
IT WAS ON A WHIM THAT I ENDED UP MAKING YUURI MY CONCUBINE,

Himuro is the one I like.
I hate you!
EVEN IF THIS WASN'T THE CASE
YOUR CONCERNS ARE UNNECESSARY.

Ah!!!!!!
Before
Now

THE LAST MORNING STAR OF THIS YEAR'S WATER SEASON IS RISING.
AFTER TOMORROW WE ENTER THE FIRE SEASON AND WE'LL HAVE A DRY SPELL.
THE WELLS WON'T FILL AGAIN UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

The dry season starts tomorrow.

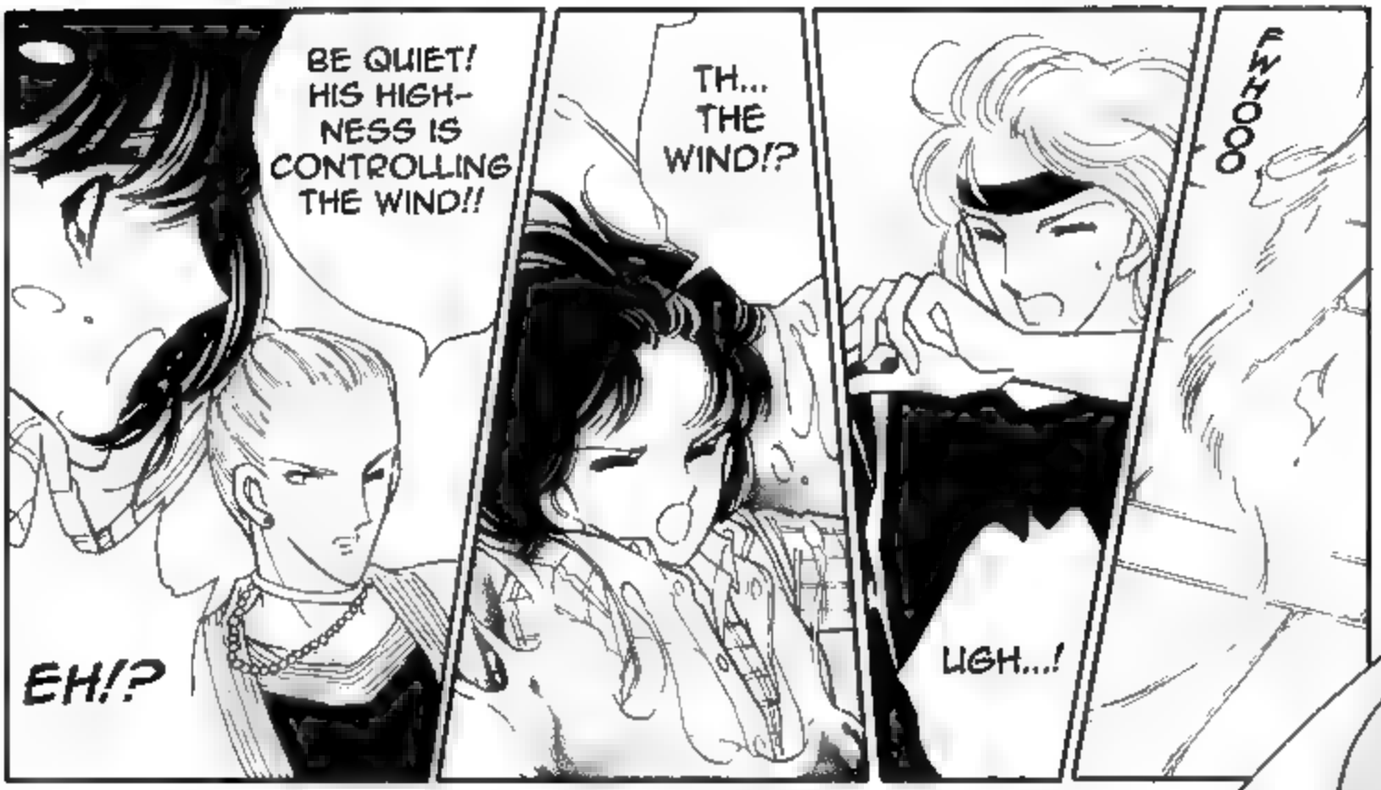
So if we miss it today I won't be able to go home for another year...

KAIL-SAMA, THE TROOPS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED AROUND THE 7 WELLS.
WE CAN PROBABLY PROTECT YOU EVEN IF THE QUEEN'S PERSONAL SOLDIERS ATTACK.
OK.
YUURI, THIS IS THE WELL YOU APPEARED FROM.
GET IN THE WATER AND I'LL SEND YOU BACK TO YOUR HOMELAND.
PRINCE!
BUT THE QUEEN CAN MANIPULATE WATER. WON'T SHE INTERFERE?
Prince Kail.
SHE MIGHT TRY TO OPPOSE US.
BUT I CAN USE AN EQUAL MAGIC, AND I'LL STOP HER.
GO AHEAD, DON'T WORRY.

If I go home...
It's over between me and the prince.
PLISH
TWITCH
CLUTCH

KYAAA
WATER, DON'T LET THE GIRL ESCAPE.
I'VE FINALLY FOUND MY SACRIFICE.
CAPTURE HER AND BRING HER BACK TO ME!!

NOBODY MOVE!!
IT'S THE QUEEN'S MAGIC!!
!?
NOOOOOOO!!


BE QUIET! HIS HIGH-NESS IS CONTROLLING THE WIND!!
EH!?
TH... THE WIND!?
UGH...!
FWOOO

ヤヤヤヤヤ

SPLASH
FWASH!
AAAGH!!

WHOOO
The wind... pushed the water away!?

PRINCE KAIL!!
GET BACK IN THE SPRING, YUURI.
IT'S ALMOST DAWN, IF YOU KEEP HESITATING, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO GO HOME.

MY WATER WAS PUSHED BACK!?
ONLY KAIL COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS!!
YES, HOW VEXING!

IT'S TOO EARLY TO RELAX. SHE HASN'T BEEN SENT HOME YET.
SPLASH!!

!?
PLEASE GRANT MY WISH...
!!
GOD OF SPACE AND TIME.
RETURN THIS GIRL OF A FOREIGN LAND TO HER FORMER PLACE.
AH!?

ZWA
KYAA!
GWEE
JINGLE

ZUWA OF THE KASHGA!?
URA AUGH!!
KAKLING
That bracelet is definitely...
YUURI, GET IN THE SPRING.
ONCE I RECITE THE SPELL, YOU'LL BE SENT HOME. HURRY!
IT'S THE KASH-GA!

It's Tito's!!
GASP
COULD THAT THING ON YOUR HEAD BE...
COULD THAT...
MY BIG SISTERS GAVE ME THIS CHOKER.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THIS IS THAT LITTLE BOY'S SKIN.
I JUST HELPED MYSELF TO IT INSTEAD OF YOURS.

it's unforgivable!!
LADY YUURI.
To treat Tito...
in such a way...
YUURI !!
IT'S SUNRISE!! HURRY AND GO!!
for this man to have Tito's choket.....
LADY YUURI.

UNFOR-
GIVABLE
!!
DASH
IDIOT...!!
YUURI,
DON'T!!

I COULD KILL YOU WITH ONE ARM TIED BEHIND MY BACK!
!?

FWIP
THE GIRL...!!
!!

FWUD

DAWN!!
THE SUN IS RISING!!
TH-THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY!
DRAW BACK!

WHY DIDN'T YOU GO HOME?
...EVEN IF I HAD GONE BACK AS IT IS, IT WOULDN'T BE OVER.
I'M SURE THAT IF I HADN'T TAKEN THIS OFF HIS HEAD, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KEEP ON LIVING LIKE BEFORE.
... COULDN'T
COULDN'T GO HOME...
I... I CAN'T FORGIVE TITO'S MURDERERS...!!

I...
...CAN'T GO BACK UNTIL I'VE AVENGED TITO!!
YUURI.
.....

THE GIRL IS STILL HERE, RIGHT?
EXCELLENT WORK. TAKE AS MUCH GOLD AS YOU WANT.
NOW YOU CAN TAKE YOUR TIME KILLING HER.
THE NEXT STEP IS ALREADY IN PLACE.
HAHAHAHA
AND THIS TIME THERE'S NO WAY KAIL CAN INTERFERE!!

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Translated by pInGu [Endless Dimension]
Translation Check by kidmigz
Edited by P-Seeker

WHAT AM I SAYING?
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
If Prince Kail weren't around, I wouldn't even be able to do a thing! I'm so stupid!
I got angry, and I got stuck here... curse my temperament...
OH!
THIS IS FINE! IT'S EASIER TO MOVE AROUND IN TITO'S CLOTHES.
YUURI-SAMA, HAVE YOU FINISHED CHANGING ...
HUH? YOU'RE NOT WEARING THE ATTIRE PRINCE KAIL PREPARED FOR YOU?

What's going on?
AND, PLEASE PROTECT THESE CLOTHES WELL UNTIL I GO BACK TO JAPAN!
OH YEAH, KIKKURI-SAN,
HASN'T IT BEEN RATHER NOISY OUTSIDE LATELY?
YES, THE SOLDIERS ARE RUNNING AROUND.
PRINCE KAIL IS AT THE ROYAL PALACE AT THE SUMMONS OF THE EMPEROR, SO WHEN HE RETURNS, HE MIGHT KNOW SOMETHING.
PRINCE KAIL IS AT THE PALACE?

THE KASHGA CLAN ATTACKED ARINNA!?
THAT'S RIGHT!
A SHORT WHILE AGO, A NOTICE WAS DELIVERED TO THE ROYAL PALACE.
IT SEEMS A FEW OF THE CITY GATES HAVE ALREADY BEEN DESTROYED!
ARINNA?
IT'S A CITY LIKE THIS ONE. THERE IS AN IMPORTANT TEMPLE THERE.
BUT,
WE DEFEATED THE KASHGA LAST YEAR. THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE ENOUGH OF AN ARMY TO TAKE DOWN ARINNA!

IN ANY CASE, I'VE BEEN ORDERED BY THE EMPEROR TO COMMAND THE PUNITIVE FORCES.
I MUST DEPART FROM HATTUSA IMMEDIATELY.
!!
"SOMEONE"
The one controlling Zuwa of the Kashga Clan is the Queen.
MAYBE IT'S...
YUURI, DON'T SAY IT!
WE DON'T HAVE ANY PROOF.
EXACTLY.
"SOMEONE" IS PROBABLY HELPING THEM SECRETLY.

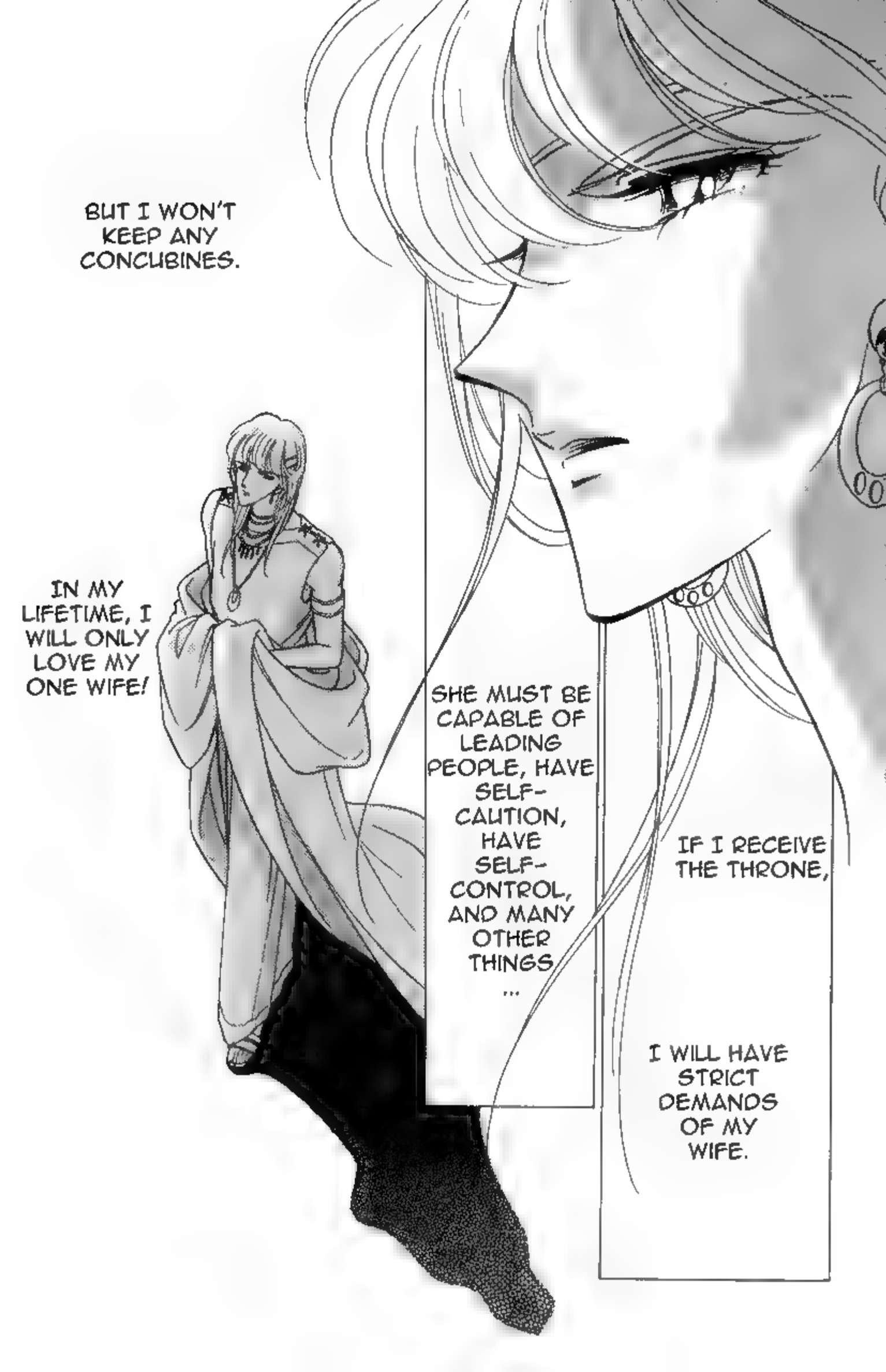
...
YOU'RE LEAVING HATTUSA ...
WHAT... ABOUT ME?
THE BATTLEFIELD IS NO PLACE FOR A WOMAN.
OF COURSE, YUURI-SAMA WILL WAIT HERE.
She wants to separate me from the prince!
This... This must be the Queen's plan!!

IL VANI-SAN, YOU'RE NOT GOING?
I'M A CIVIL SERVANT.
EVEN IF I GO, I WON'T BE OF ANY USE TO HIS HIGHNESS.
KIKKURI, PREPARE THE SOLDIERS FOR BATTLE.
I'M ALSO LEAVING IMMEDI-ATELY!
YES SIR!
WHY IS THAT?
...HEY,
YOU SEEM OPPOSED TO ME BEING HERE.

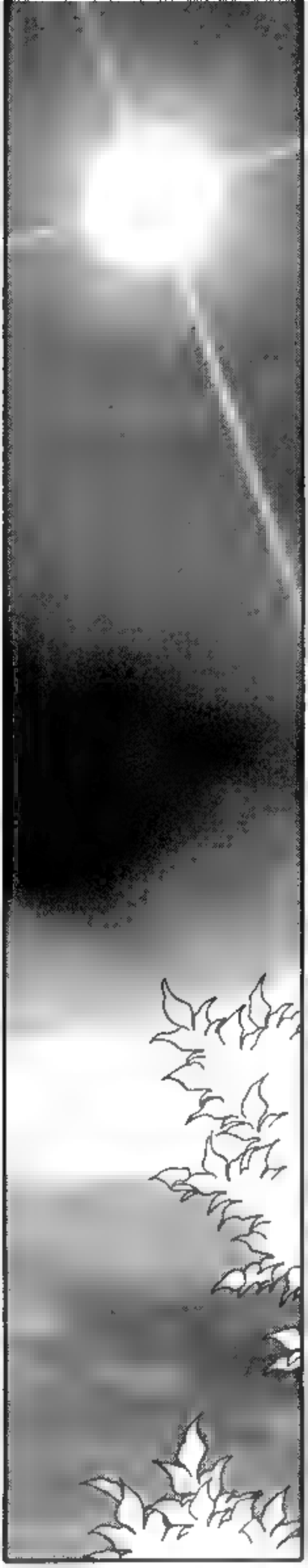
I ALSO SUPPORTED THAT...
HIS HIGHNESS USED TO SAY HE WOULDN'T HAVE ANY CONCUBINES,
...
WHAT?
HIS HIGHNESS KAIL IS AN IMPORTANT PERSON TO THE SUCCESSION OF THE IMPERIAL LINE.
IF YOU WISH TO STAY, YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS...
THAT'S FINE,

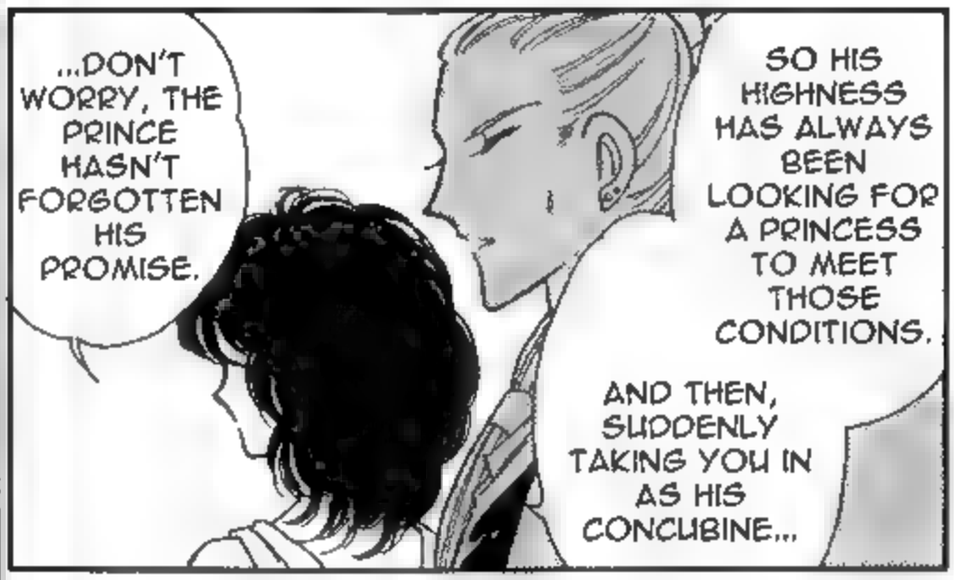
THE CURRENT CROWN PRINCE, HIS HIGHNESS ARNU-WANDA, HAS A FRAIL BODY.
EVEN THOUGH HE HAS A PRINCESS AND FIVE CONCUBINES, HE HAS NO CHILDREN. HE PROBABLY CAN NOT HOPE FOR ANY FROM NOW ON.
Succeed the imperial line... That means, becoming the King?
THE SECOND PRINCE, HIS HIGHNESS TELEPINU, CAN'T TAKE THE THRONE BECAUSE HIS MOTHER IS OF LOW SOCIAL STANDING.
BUT...
BUT ISN'T PRINCE KAIL THE THIRD PRINCE?

IF THE TAVANANNA IS LACKING IN QUALITY, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?
LOOK AT THE CURRENT QUEEN NAKIA.
HIS HIGHNESS HAS SAID IT BEFORE...
W-WHOEVER BECOMES THE KING HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
IF HIS HIGHNESS BECOMES THE KING, HIS WIFE WILL BECOME THE TAVANANNA.
IN THAT RESPECT, OUR HIGHNESS IS THE FORMER QUEEN'S CHILD, AND IS OF SOUND MIND AND BODY.
IN TERMS OF QUALIFI-CATIONS, HE IS THE FOREMOST PERSON WHO CAN SUCCEED THE THRONE.
EVERYONE HAS AGREED TO THAT, EXCEPT THE CURRENT QUEEN.


BUT I WON'T KEEP ANY CONCUBINES.
IN MY LIFETIME, I WILL ONLY LOVE MY ONE WIFE!
SHE MUST BE CAPABLE OF LEADING PEOPLE, HAVE SELF-CAUTION, HAVE SELF-CONTROL, AND MANY OTHER THINGS ...
IF I RECEIVE THE THRONE,
I WILL HAVE STRICT DEMANDS OF MY WIFE.

I WILL ONLY LOVE MY ONE WIFE.
...




...DON'T WORRY, THE PRINCE HASN'T FORGOTTEN HIS PROMISE.
SO HIS HIGHNESS HAS ALWAYS BEEN LOOKING FOR A PRINCESS TO MEET THOSE CONDITIONS.
AND THEN, SUDDENLY TAKING YOU IN AS HIS CONCUBINE...

HUH?

I'm just the prince's official concubine.
Yes, that's our only connection!
But why does my chest hurt like this!?

GIGGLE...
GIGGLE... GIGGLE...
BY THE EMPEROR'S COMMAND, PRINCE KAIL WILL LEAVE HATTUSA.
TO THE BATTLE-FIELD?
SHE WOULD JUST BE A BURDEN.
IF HE TAKES THE GIRL ALONG WITH HIM...
BUT QUEEN-SAMA... ABOUT HIS HIGHNESS KAIL.
WITH KAIL GONE,
THAT GIRL WILL BE OURS EASILY!
WELL THEN, HOW SHOULD WE CAPTURE HER?

HO HO HO
BUT IF THAT HAPPENED, WE COULD KILL TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE!
THE KASHGA COULD HAVE HER NECK IN THE MIDST OF THE BATTLEFIELD!
AND THEN KAIL WOULD BE DISTRACTED AND UNPREPARED, AND THEY COULD GET RID OF KAIL TOO!!
HO HO HO

OUR SUPREME GOD TESHUB!
GRANT THE HITTITES VICTORY!!
TROOPS, WE'RE OFF TO WAR!
The Prince is doing what a prince has to do, I can't interfere!
I decided on my own that I would defeat Tito's enemies. I can't rely on Prince Kail.
LEAD THE TROOPS AND FREE ARINNA SWIFTLY!
KAIL MURSILI,
AS MY REPRESENTATIVE, I CONFER UPON YOU FULL AUTHORITY!
YES!

YUURI,
PRINCE KA—
...
To be careful...
I have to tell him,
ARE YOU READY...
TO GO TO THE BATTLE-FIELD?
HUH?

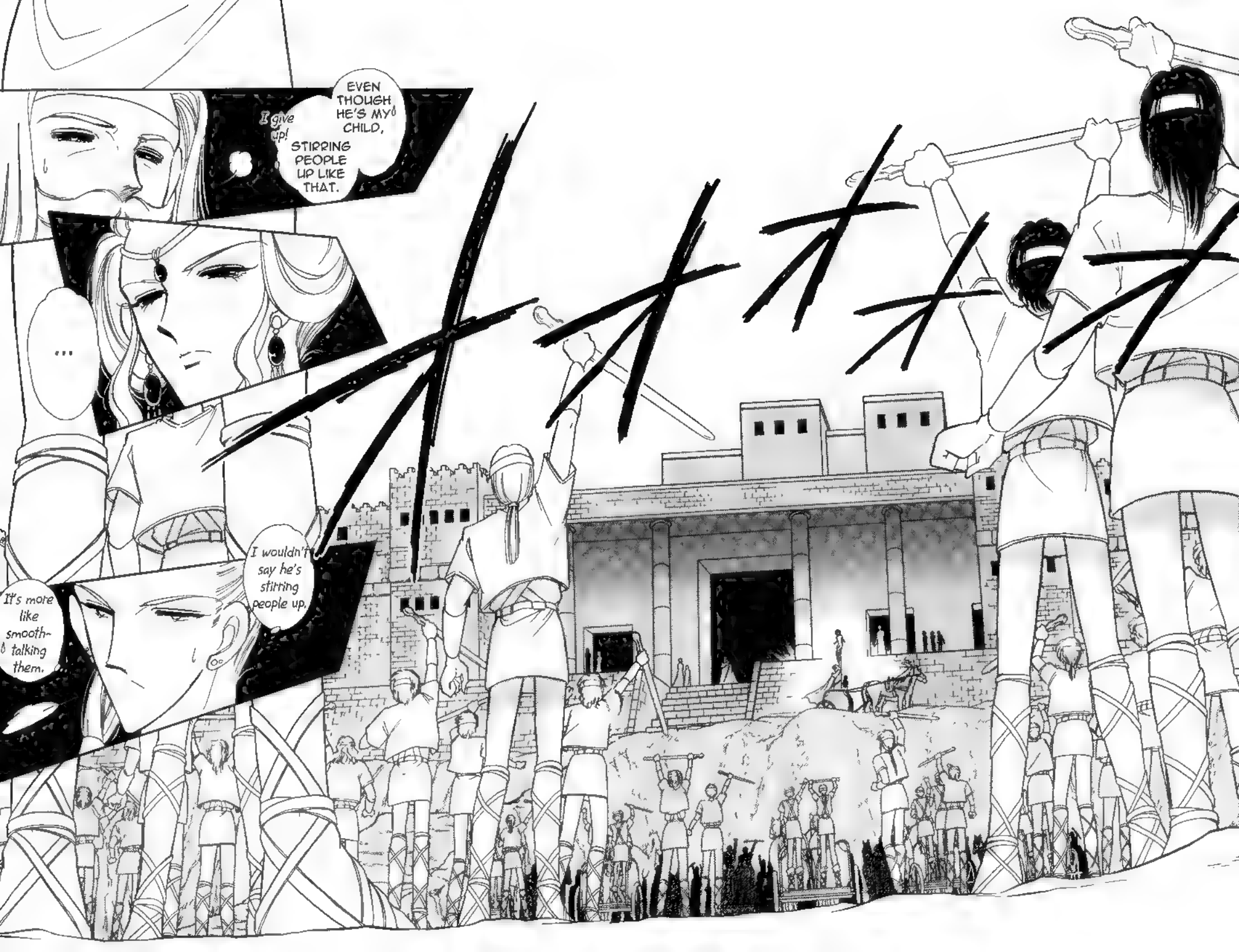
Prince Kail!!
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
IF YOU'RE BY MY SIDE, I CAN DEFINITELY PROTECT YOU!!
IF YOU TRUST ME, COME WITH ME! YUURI!!

Prince!!
CHUCKLE
KAIL! YOU PLAN TO BRING A WOMAN WITH YOU TO BATTLE!!

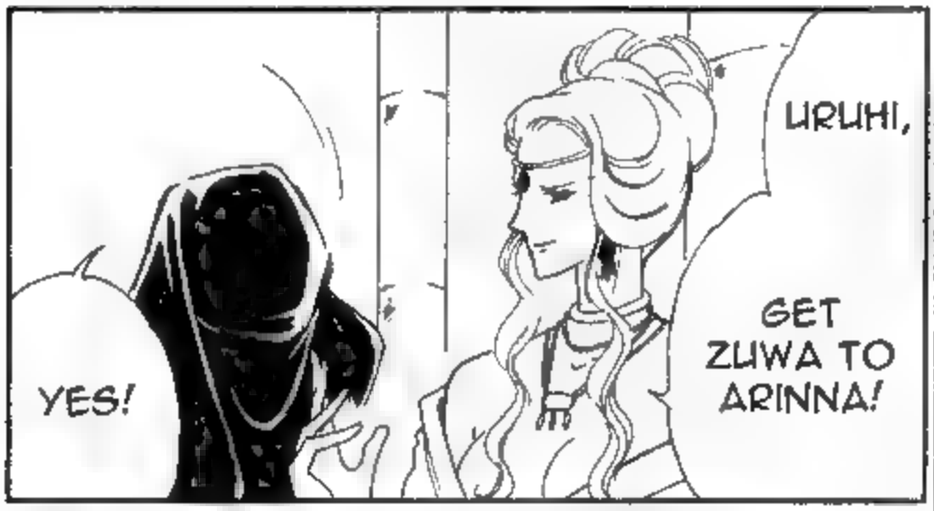
LIFTED UP
EVERYONE LISTEN UP!
THIS IS THE GIRL THAT RECENTLY APPEARED,
FROM THE SPRING THE DAY ISHTAR WAS SHINING!
AS YOU KNOW, ISHTAR IS THE GODDESS OF WAR.

ISHTAR = VENUS

ISHTAR HAS SENT THIS GIRL FOR OUR SAKE!
AS LONG AS THIS GIRL IS WITH US, THE HITTITES ARE PROMISED VICTORY!!

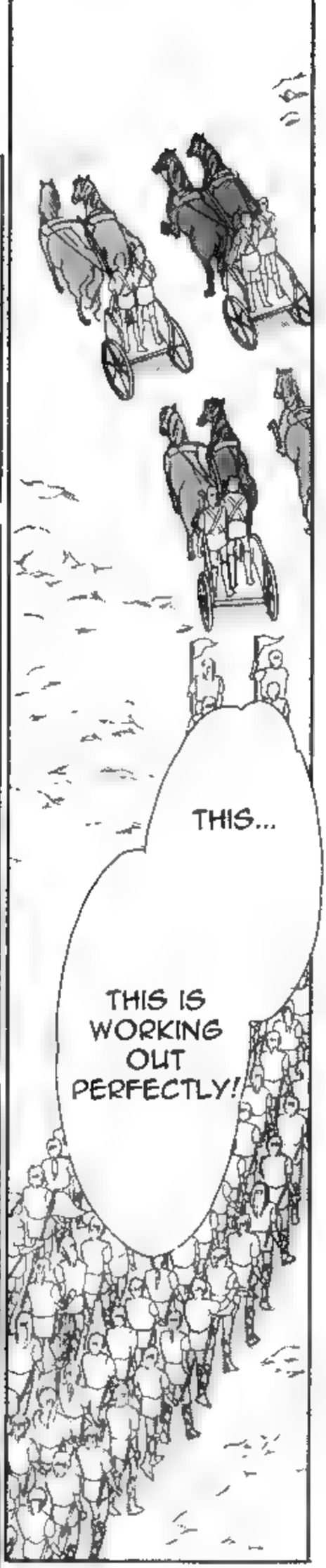

I give up!
EVEN THOUGH HE'S MY CHILD,
STIRRING PEOPLE UP LIKE THAT.
...
I wouldn't say he's stirring people up.
It's more like smooth-talking them.

IF YOU WANT TO AVENGE TITO, YOU MUST SURVIVE AT ALL COSTS.
DON'T FORGET THAT!
PRINCE ...
IS THIS OKAY, YUURI?
OK!
ALSO, THE ARINNA WE'RE GOING TO FROM HERE IS TITO'S HOMETOWN.
WHAT!?

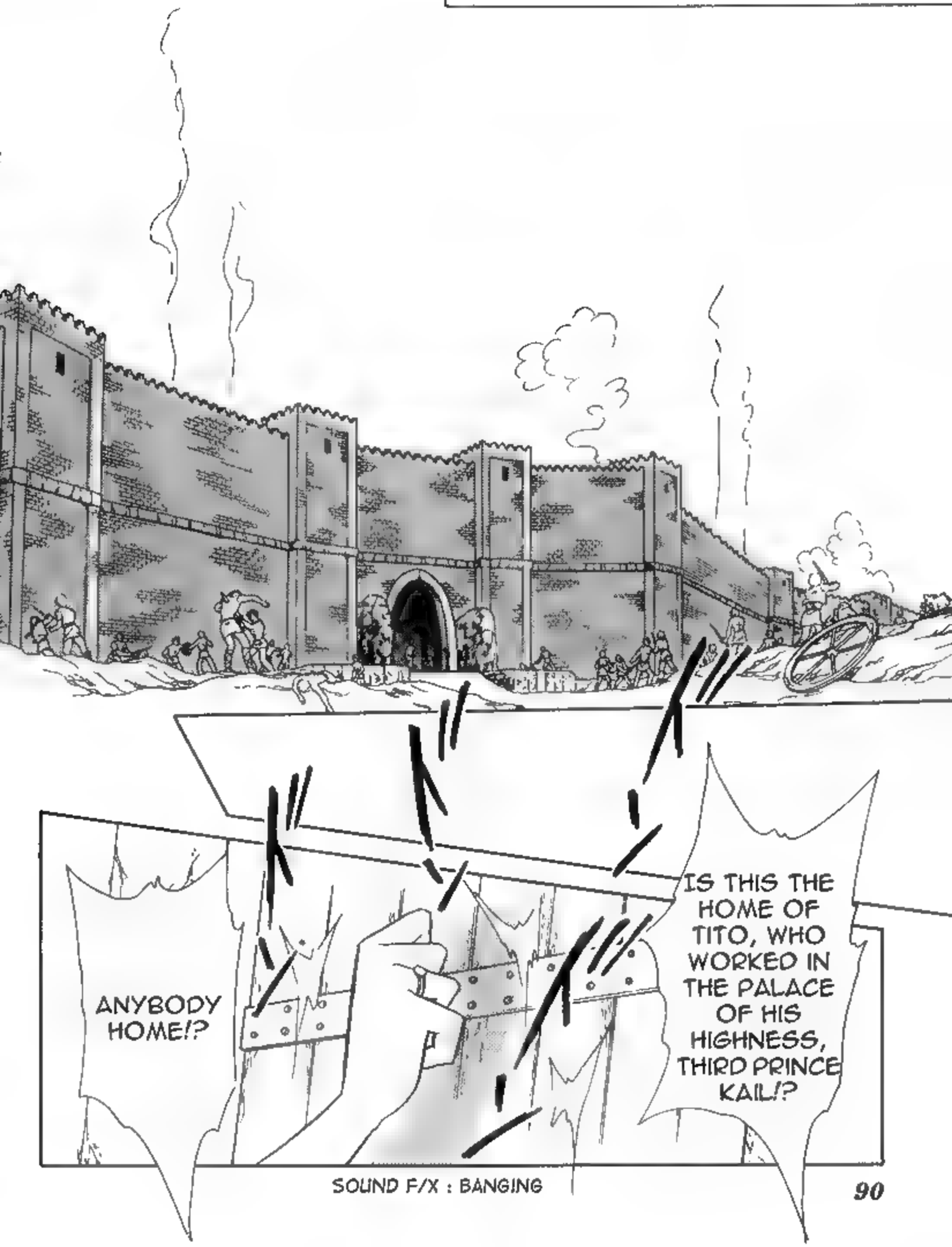

URUHI,
GET ZUWA TO ARINNA!
YES!

AND YOU'RE GOING TOO.
GIGGLE
GOT IT?

SMILE
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS. LEAVE IT TO ME.


THIS...
THIS IS WORKING OUT PERFECTLY!

RELIGIOUS CITY: ARINNA



SOUND F/X : BANGING

WHAT IS IT!
THIS IS A TIME OF EMERGENCY!
WHAT DO YOU WANT!?
TITO IS OUR YOUNGER BROTHER, AND THE ELDEST SON OF OUR HOUSE.
I'VE COME TO INFORM YOU OF THE DEATH OF YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER TITO.
OH, I'M A SERVANT OF HIS HIGHNESS KAIL.

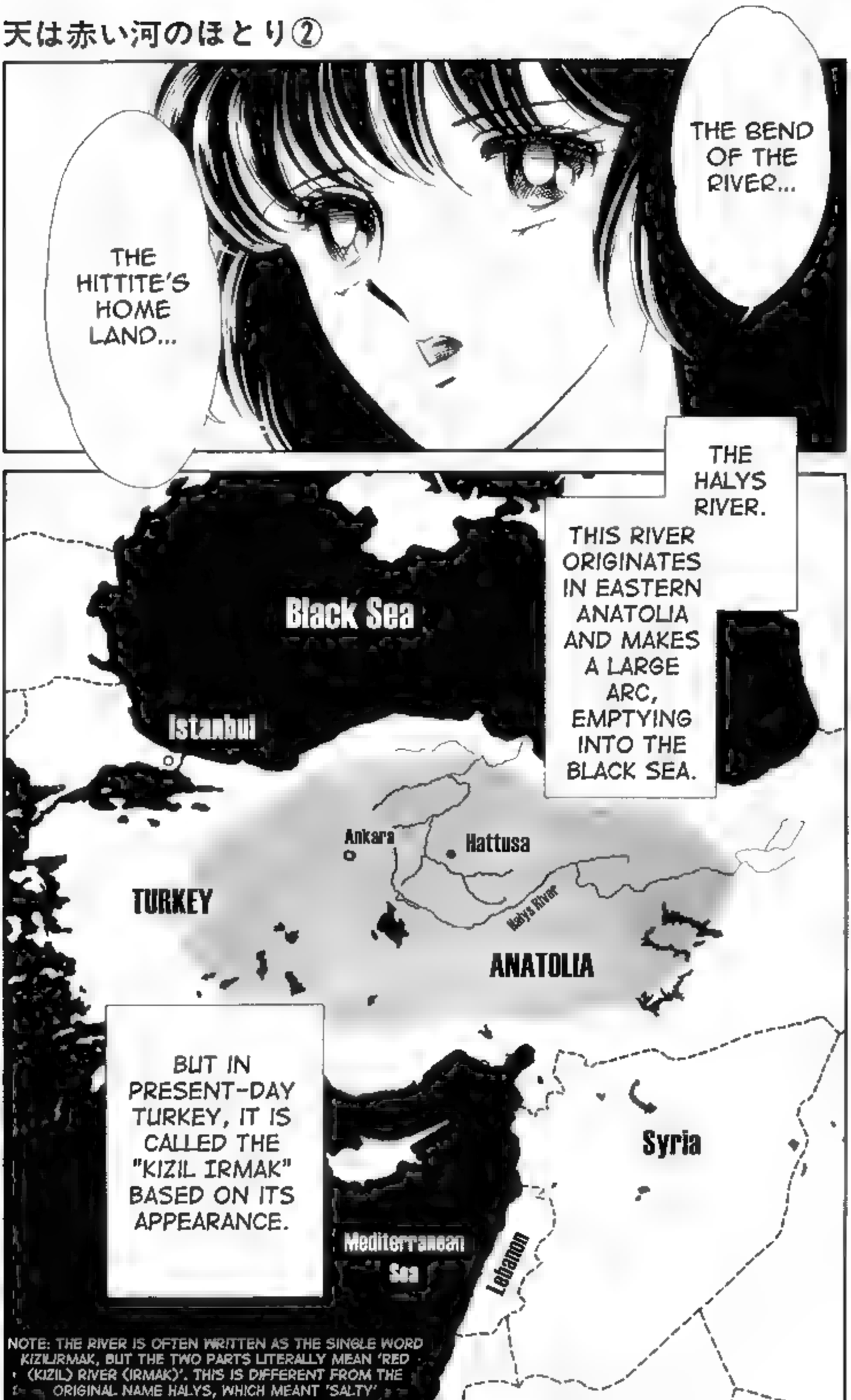
TITO DIED!? NONSENSE!!
HOW DID IT HAPPEN!?
IT WAS BY THE CONCUBINE THAT HIS HIGHNESS KAIL MET.
HE WAS BLAMED FOR A TRIVIAL MISTAKE, AND WAS PUNISHED.
AT THE HANDS OF HIS HIGHNESS' CONCUBINE ...!?
YES,
AND IN SUCH A CRUEL WAY TOO.
WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS THIS CONCUBINE!?

YUURI!!
WELL,
SHE'S JUST A BRAINLESS GIRL.
HER NAME IS YUURI.
SHE KILLED TITO!! WE'LL NEVER FORGIVE HER!!

SOUND F/X DO DO DO DO DO DO DO
FOOTSTEPS OF THE HORSES
I WONDER WHAT WARS IN ANCIENT TIMES ARE LIKE
If I knew this were going to happen, I would have studied harder in history class.
Come to think of it, this is the first time I've been outside the city walls of Hattusa.
WHAT'S THAT!?
AH!

#MangaCo @ irc.AnimeCo.org
Translated by kidmigz
Edited by P-Seeker

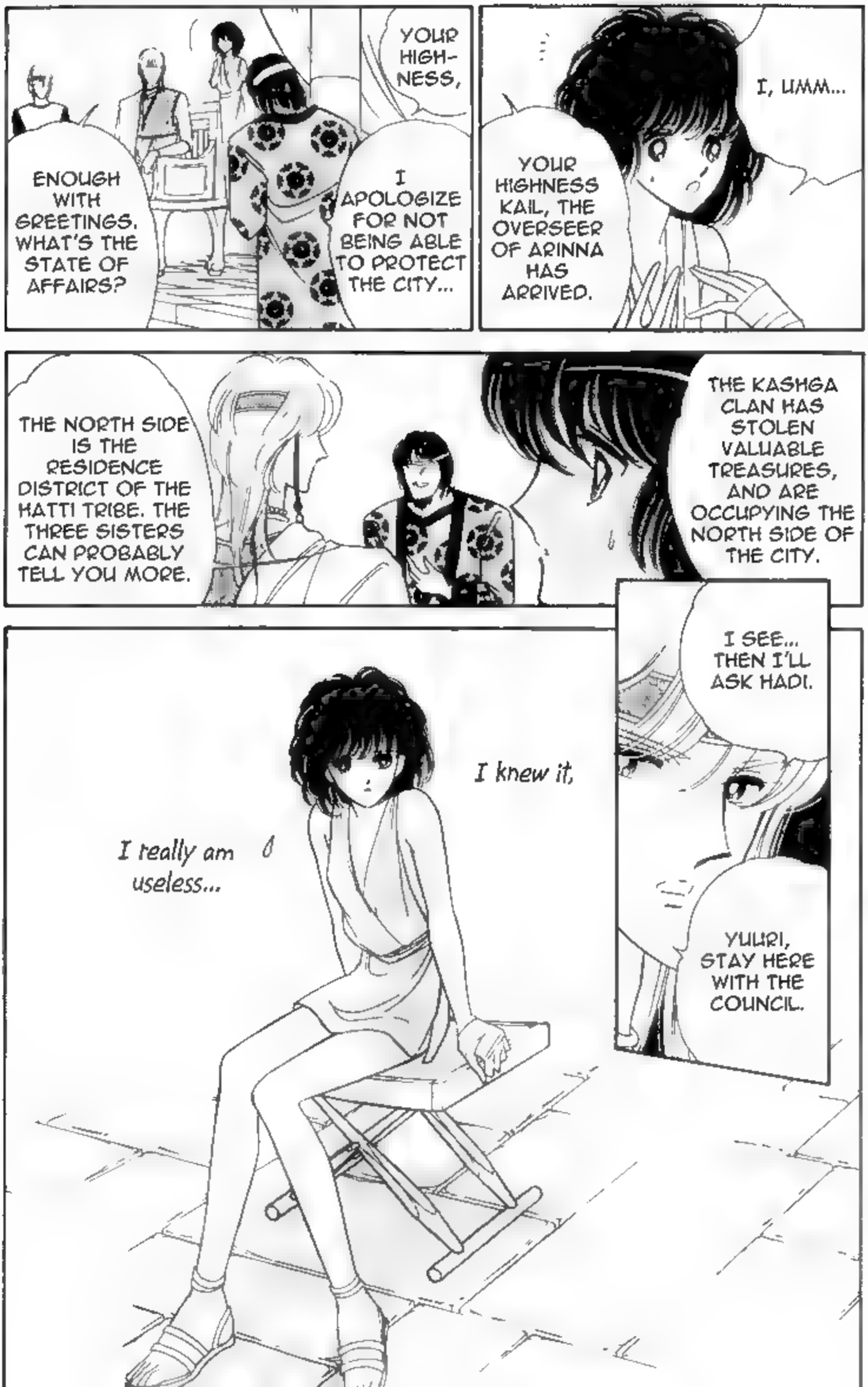
NOTE: THE HALYS IS NOW KNOWN AS THE K'IZIL IRMAK
THAT'S THE HALYS* RIVER.
THE SURROUNDING SOIL GIVES IT A CONSTANT RED COLOR.
PRINCE KAIL...
LONG AGO, WE HITTITES USED TO LIVE IN THE BEND OF THAT RIVER.
NOW OUR EMPIRE'S TERRITORY IS ALWAYS SPREADING TO DISTANT LANDS.
BUT THE BEND OF THE HALYS RIVER IS STILL OUR HOME LAND.


THE BEND OF THE RIVER...
THE HITTITE'S HOME LAND...
THE HALYS RIVER.
THIS RIVER ORIGINATES IN EASTERN ANATOLIA AND MAKES A LARGE ARC, EMPTYING INTO THE BLACK SEA.
Black Sea
Istanbul
Ankara
Hattusa
TURKEY
Halys River
ANATOLIA
BUT IN PRESENT-DAY TURKEY, IT IS CALLED THE "KIZIL IRMAK" BASED ON ITS APPEARANCE.
Syria
Mediterranean Sea
Lebanon
NOTE: THE RIVER IS OFTEN WRITTEN AS THE SINGLE WORD KIZILIRMAK, BUT THE TWO PARTS LITERALLY MEAN 'RED (KIZIL) RIVER (IRMAK)'. THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM THE ORIGINAL NAME HALYS, WHICH MEANT 'SALTY'.

KIKKURI-SAN?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM.
YOU SAID TITO'S THREE SISTERS ARE THERE, BUT ARE THEY SAFE...?
THOSE THREE HATTI SISTERS ARE FAMOUS IN ARINNA.
THE CITY OF ARINNA IS BY THAT RIVER.
AND WHEN THOSE GIRLS TAKE UP ARMS, THEY CAN HOLD THEIR OWN AGAINST GUYS ANYWHERE.
HIS FATHER IS THE LEADER OF THE TRIBE,
TITO CAME FROM THE HATTI TRIBE, THE OLDEST TRIBE IN ANATOLIA.
YOU'LL GET TO MEET THEM SOON.
WELL,
YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN YOU MEET THEM.

Tito was killed by Zuwa in order to save me.
How will his sisters react? Will it be okay to meet them?
WE ARE PLEASED TO MEET YOU, YUURI-SAMA.
WE ARE THE DAUGHTERS OF THE HATTI CHIEF, TALOS, AND THE OLDER SISTERS OF TITO.

I AM THE ELDEST DAUGHTER HADI.
THESE TWINS ARE MY YOUNGER SISTERS RYUI AND SHALLA.
These people are Tito's sisters.
Yes, the girl named Yuuri is the one who killed Tito.
"The selfish one spoiled by winning His Highness Kail's favor, the one who killed Tito so cruelly.
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING YOU.


YOUR HIGH-NESS,
I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO PROTECT THE CITY...
ENOUGH WITH GREETINGS. WHAT'S THE STATE OF AFFAIRS?
I, UMM...
YOUR HIGHNESS KAIL, THE OVERSEER OF ARINNA HAS ARRIVED.
THE KASHGA CLAN HAS STOLEN VALUABLE TREASURES, AND ARE OCCUPYING THE NORTH SIDE OF THE CITY.
THE NORTH SIDE IS THE RESIDENCE DISTRICT OF THE HATTI TRIBE. THE THREE SISTERS CAN PROBABLY TELL YOU MORE.
I SEE... THEN I'LL ASK HADI.
YUURI, STAY HERE WITH THE COUNCIL.
I knew it,
I really am useless...

REALLY.
SHE'S STILL COMPLETELY A CHILD!
SHE'S TINY AND SCRAWNY
WHAT'S WITH THAT GIRL.
WHEN HE SAID "HIS HIGHNESS KAIL'S CONCUBINE", I WAS WONDERING WHAT KIND OF BEAUTY SHE WAS!
HEY, SIS.
WHAT DOES HE LIKE ABOUT THAT GIRL? I DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM.
GEEZ,
AND WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING BECAUSE SHE'S BEING PROTECTED BY HIS HIGHNESS.
BUT SHE'LL PAY WITH HER LIFE AS REPARATION FOR KILLING TITO.

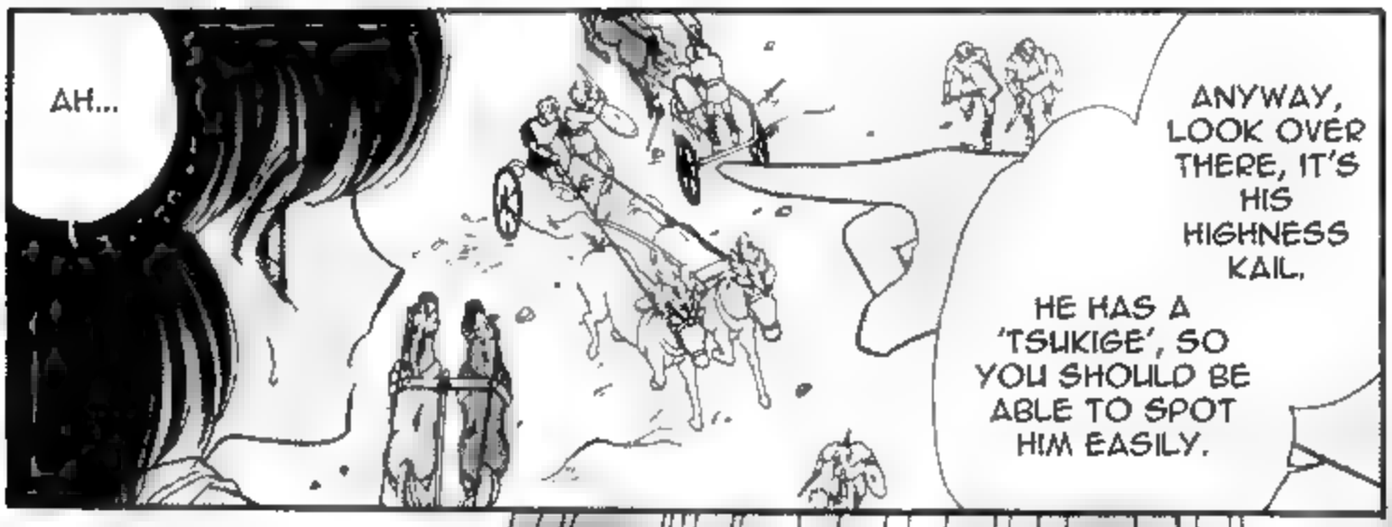
...I'M MORE THAN PREPARED FOR DANGER, THOUGH...
YUURI, TOMORROW I'M GOING TO THE BATTLE-FRONT TOO.
IT'S DANGEROUS TO BRING YOU ALONG. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE EXTENT OF THE QUEEN'S REACH IS. I'M ALSO WORRIED ABOUT LEAVING YOU BEHIND.
HADI,
YOUR HIGH-NESS,
LEAVE YUURI-SAMA IN OUR HANDS.
I UNDERSTAND.
OKAY THEN, I ASK THIS FAVOR OF YOU THREE.
YES!
Is it okay leaving Yuuri to those sisters?
...
PRINCE, I... I'LL WAIT HERE. THEY'RE HERE FOR ME, SO DON'T WORRY.
If I'm not useful, I at least don't want to be a burden.
IN YOUR HANDS...
BUT...

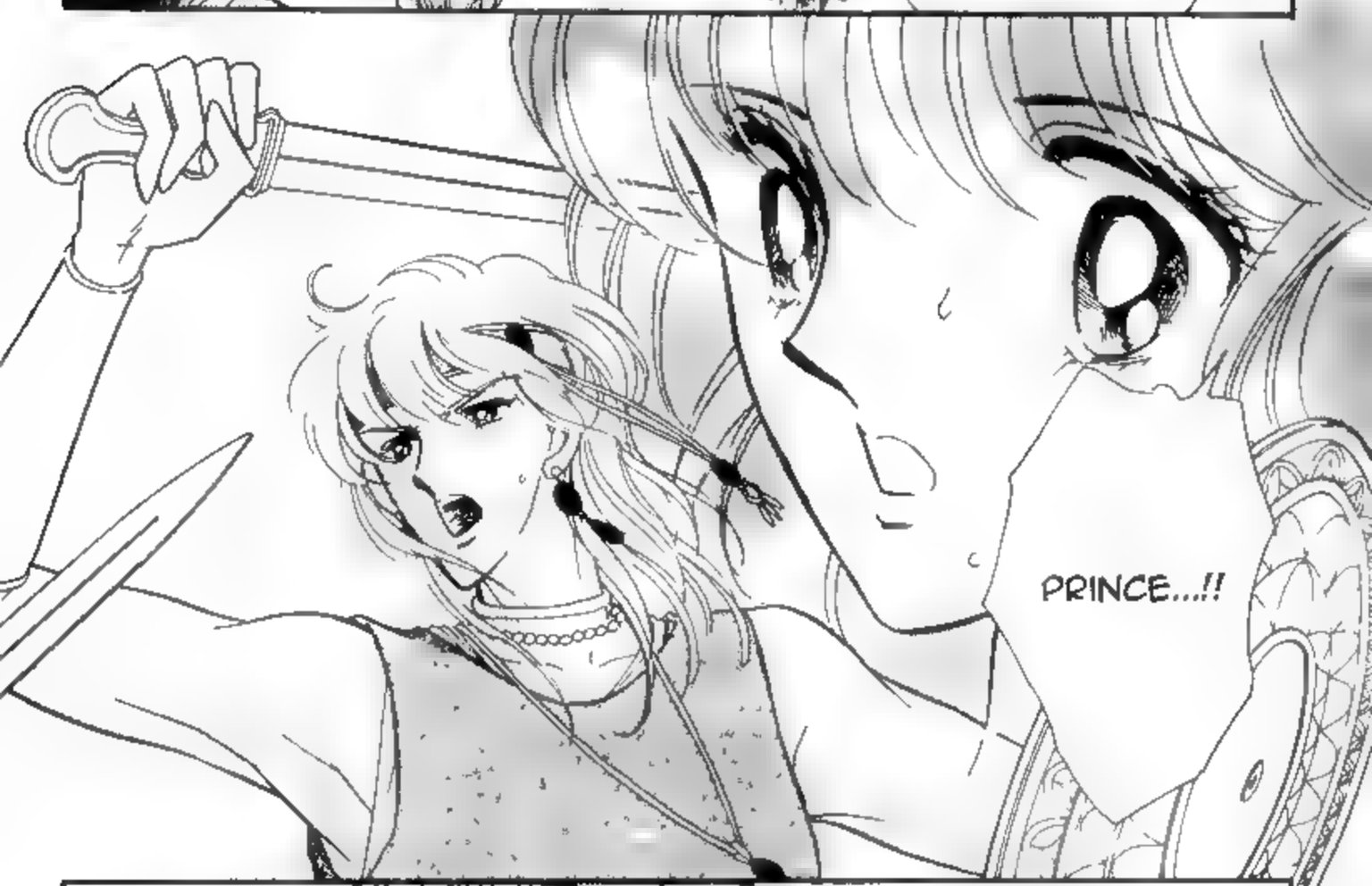
BEFORE DAYBREAK,
IN THE WASTELAND OF THE CITY'S NORTH SIDE, THE BATTLE HAS STARTED.
SOUND F/X. GAKI CLASHING OF SWORDS

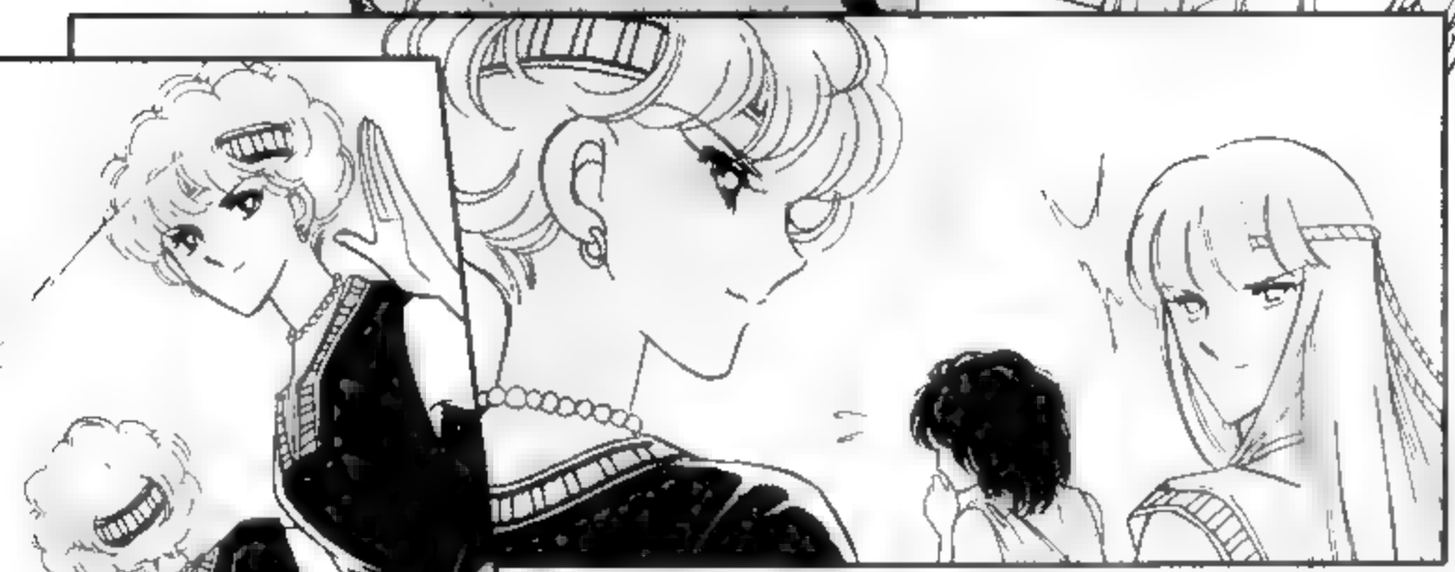
OUR GOAL IS TO RECAPTURE ARINNA!
IT'S FINE IF WE DRIVE THEM OUT OF THE CITY!!
DON'T CHASE THE ONES THAT ARE RUNNING AWAY!!
IS HE OKAY...?
PRINCE KAIL...
...
THEN...
YOU'RE ANXIOUS ABOUT HIS HIGHNESS KAIL, AREN'T YOU?
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HIS HIGHNESS, WHY DON'T I LEAD YOU TO A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN SEE THE BATTLE-FIELD?
REALLY? BUT...

SOUND F/X NIKORI SMILE

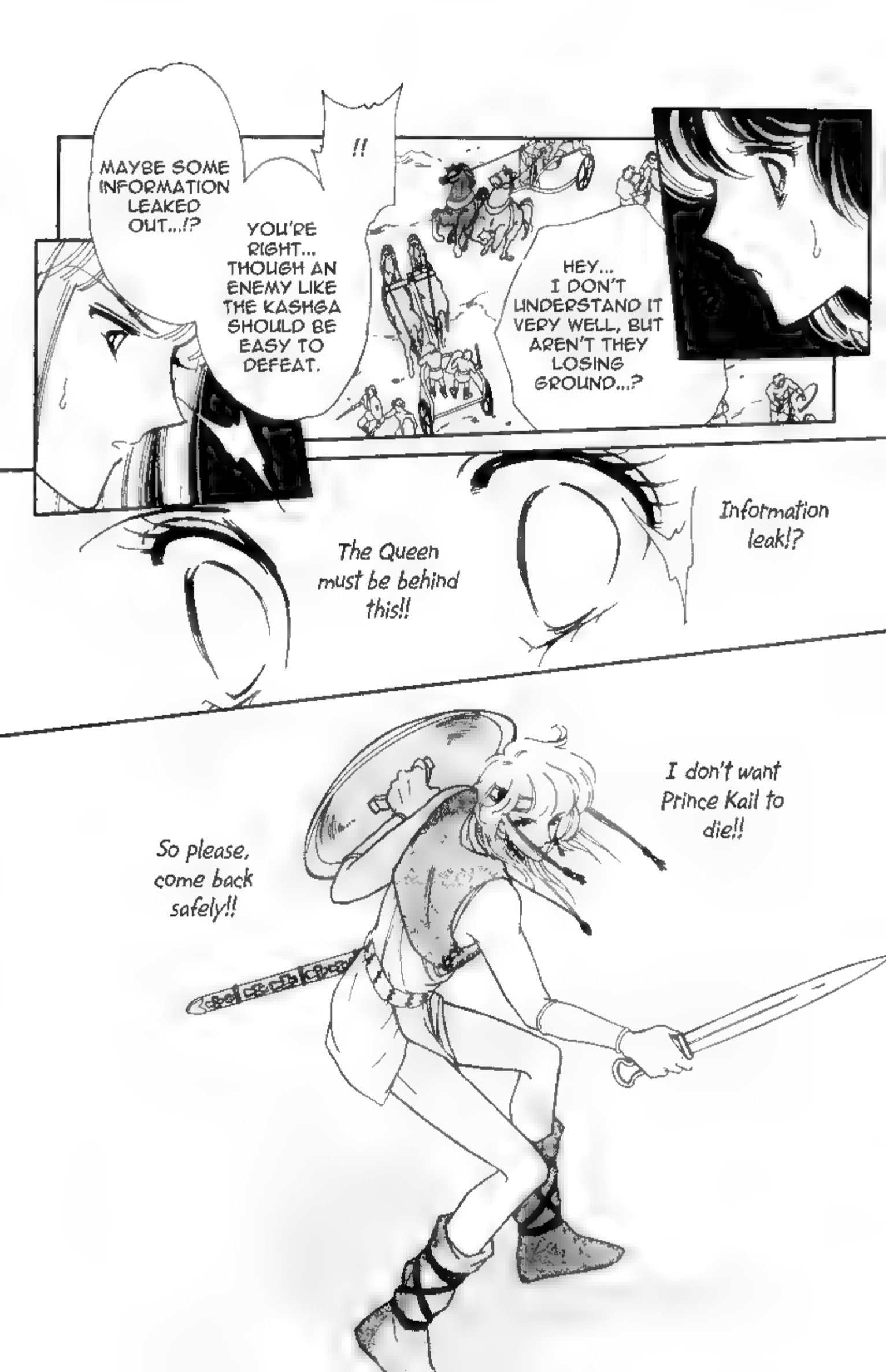
...
THIS PLATEAU IS A HORSE BREEDING GROUND.
BUT IT OFFERS A GREAT VIEW OF THE NORTHERN PLAIN.
IS... IS THAT SO?
WHAT A STRANGE THING TO SAY.
ON THE BATTLEFIELD, HORSES ARE MEANT JUST FOR PULLING CHARIOTS.
THERE'S NO ONE RIDING THE HORSES.
RIDING THE HORSES?
HUH?







NOTE: 'TSUKIGE' IS A GREY HORSE WITH A SLIGHT TINGE OF RED


!!
MAYBE SOME INFORMATION LEAKED OUT...!?
YOU'RE RIGHT... THOUGH AN ENEMY LIKE THE KASHGA SHOULD BE EASY TO DEFEAT.
HEY... I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT VERY WELL, BUT AREN'T THEY LOSING GROUND...?
Information leak!?
The Queen must be behind this!!
I don't want Prince Kail to die!!
So please, come back safely!!

SOUND F/X
DOKI DOKI'N DOKIN DOKIN
HEART BEATING
Now I'm acting as if I'm in love with Prince Kail!!
...Oh no!
WHOEVER'S IN FRONT OF ME,
FRIEND OR FOE, I'LL KNOCK YOU DOWN!!
HEY, OUT OF THE WAY!
SOUND F/X
DO DO, DO/DO DO DO
FOOTSTEPS OF THE HORSES

A WOMAN ON THE BATTLE-FIELD!!
IT'S THAT GIRL!
THE QUEEN SENT HER HERE!!
THIS TIME, I'LL GET YOUR NECK FOR SURE!!
"BY THE WAY, I'VE HEARD A RUMOR THAT ZUWA OF THE KASHGA IS OUT TO GET YUURI'S NECK"
SOUND F/X NYA GLANCE
SOUND F/X DO DO DO DO DO DO: HORSES' FOOTSTEPS

SOUND F/X: GARA GARA GARA. RATTLE
WHAT!? WHEN DID SHE...!?
!?
SHE DISAP-PEARED!?
SOUND F/X. NYARI LEER
SOUND F/X. FU-
A DISAPPEARING SOUND
"YOU CAN HAVE REVENGE FOR TITO... OH, EXCUSE ME, THAT WAS UNNECESSARY OF ME..."
"MAYBE IF YOU LURE YUURI IN FRONT OF ZUWA"
The twins,
They've skillfully lured Zuwa here, haven't they.

She'll pay for killing Tito by winning the Prince's favor!!
How much this incompetent selfish princess has made us suffer!
FALLING IN LOVE WITH THE PRINCE, WHAT A STUPID IDEA...

I was told that the one the Prince loves can only be someone with the appropriate nature to become the Tavananna...
SOUND F/X DO DO DO DO DO DO DO: HORSES' FOOTSTEPS
AH!!
LITTLE GIRL!! I'VE FOUND YOU!!

Zuwa!!
I'LL EARN A WAGON FULL OF GOLD JUST FOR THAT SINGLE NECK.
I WON'T LET YOU ESCAPE!!
SOUND F/X DA! RUNNING FOOTSTEPS
WHAT AN IDIOT,
KILL HER!!
SHE THINKS SHE CAN ESCAPE A CHARIOT BY RUNNING!?
HURRY AND KILL THAT GIRL!!

A HORSE ...!?
!!
KILL HER!!
SOUND F/X. HIHIN WHINNY OF A HORSE
SOUND F/X BA. SOUND OF HER JUMPING ON THE HORSE

SOUND F/X DOKA DOKA. LOUD IMPACT SOUND, FROM THE HORSE'S RUNNING
TH... THAT GIRL CAN RIDE A HORSE!?
SHE GOT ON THE HORSE!?
KYAAA...
YOU'RE TOO WILD!
HORSE!! IT'S MY FIRST TIME RIDING...
I'M FALLING —
BUT... SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET AWAY,
SHE'S HEADED FOR A CLIFF!!

LITTLE GIRL!
PREPARE TO DIE!!
H—HORSE!?
DON'T BE CRAZY!!

!! AAAAK
THE BATTLEFIELD'S BELOW!!

SOUND F/X. ZA ZA. SLIDING ON DUST
YUURI!?
WAAA!
WHAT THE... A SURPRISE ATTACK!?
IT'S AN AMBUSH FROM THE REAR!!
SOUND F/X DOKA. IMPACT AS THE HORSE HITS THE GROUND

FROM BEHIND?
THAT SHOULDN'T BE...!!
THAT'S CRAZY! THEY CAME DOWN FROM THAT CLIFF!
STOP!
YOU STUPID HORSE,
AAAAAYK
WATCH OUT!
WAAA!
THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!!
THIS...
K... KAIL-SAMA, THE KASHGA HAVE BEEN THROWN INTO DISARRAY.

RIDING A HORSE INTO COMBAT? THIS IS A NEW TACTIC.
...YUURI... THAT GIRL...
BUT IT CERTAINLY GIVES MORE MOBILITY THAN A CHARIOT.

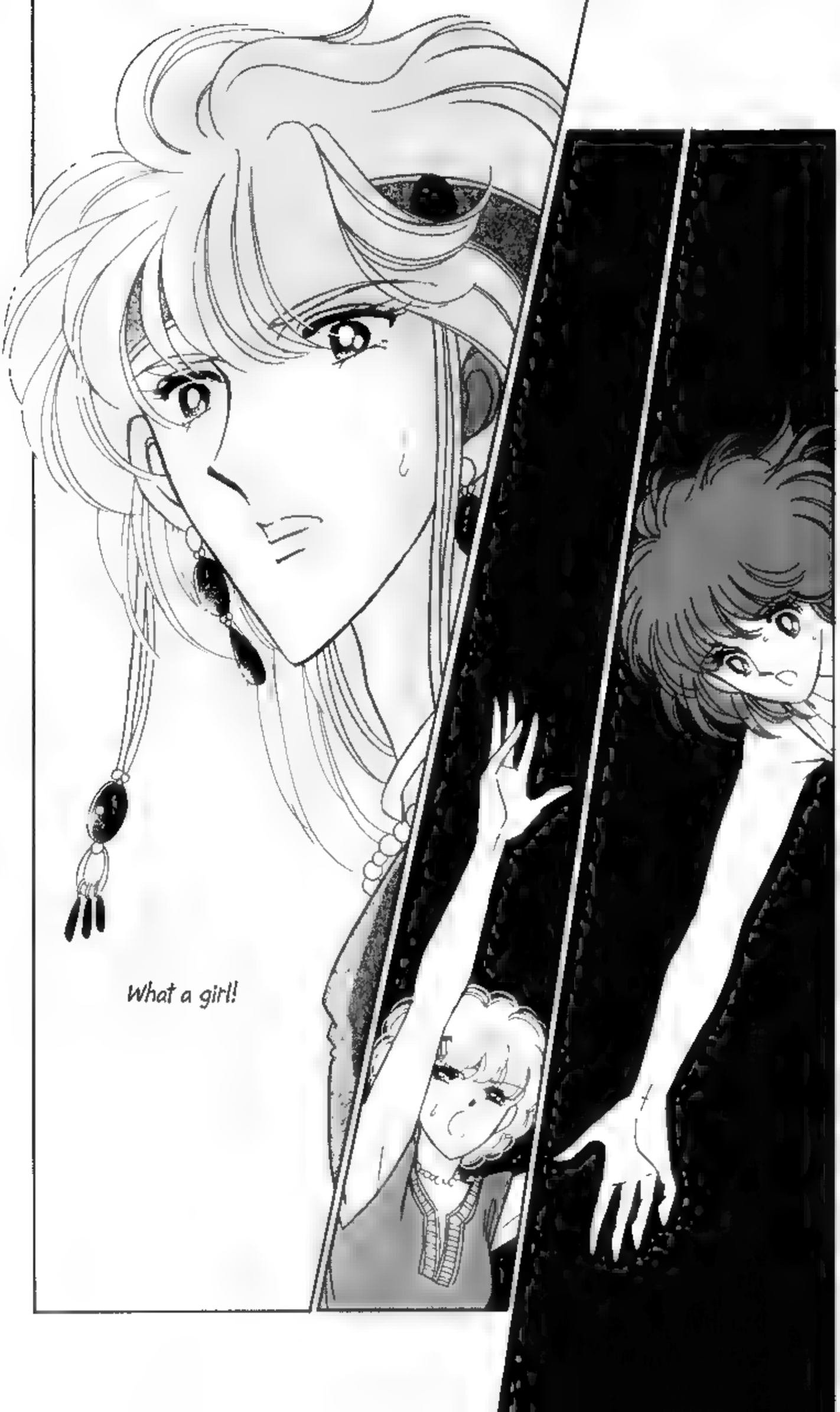
DON'T LET THIS OPPORTUNITY GO!!
WE'LL CRUSH THE KASHGA AT ONCE!!
SOUND F/X OOOOO ANOTHER ROARING SOUND, BUT MORE LIKE "CHARGE!"
SOUND F/X WAAAA: ROAR OF A CROWD

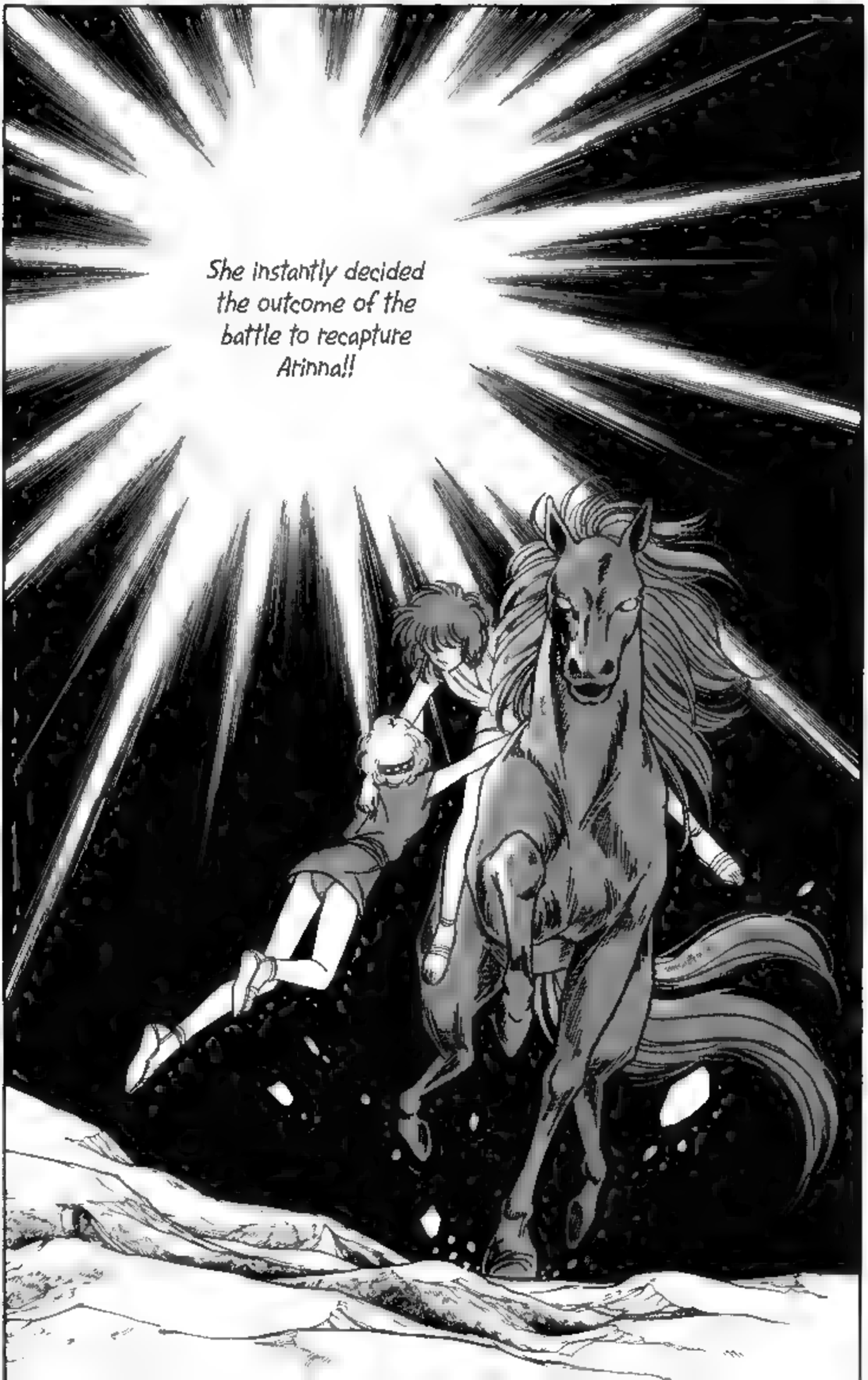
IT'S BECOME SO ONE-SIDED.
THE KASHGA ARE COLLAPSING!
WHAT IS THIS GIRL...!?

HEY SIS, RYUI'S OVER THERE!!
WHAT!?

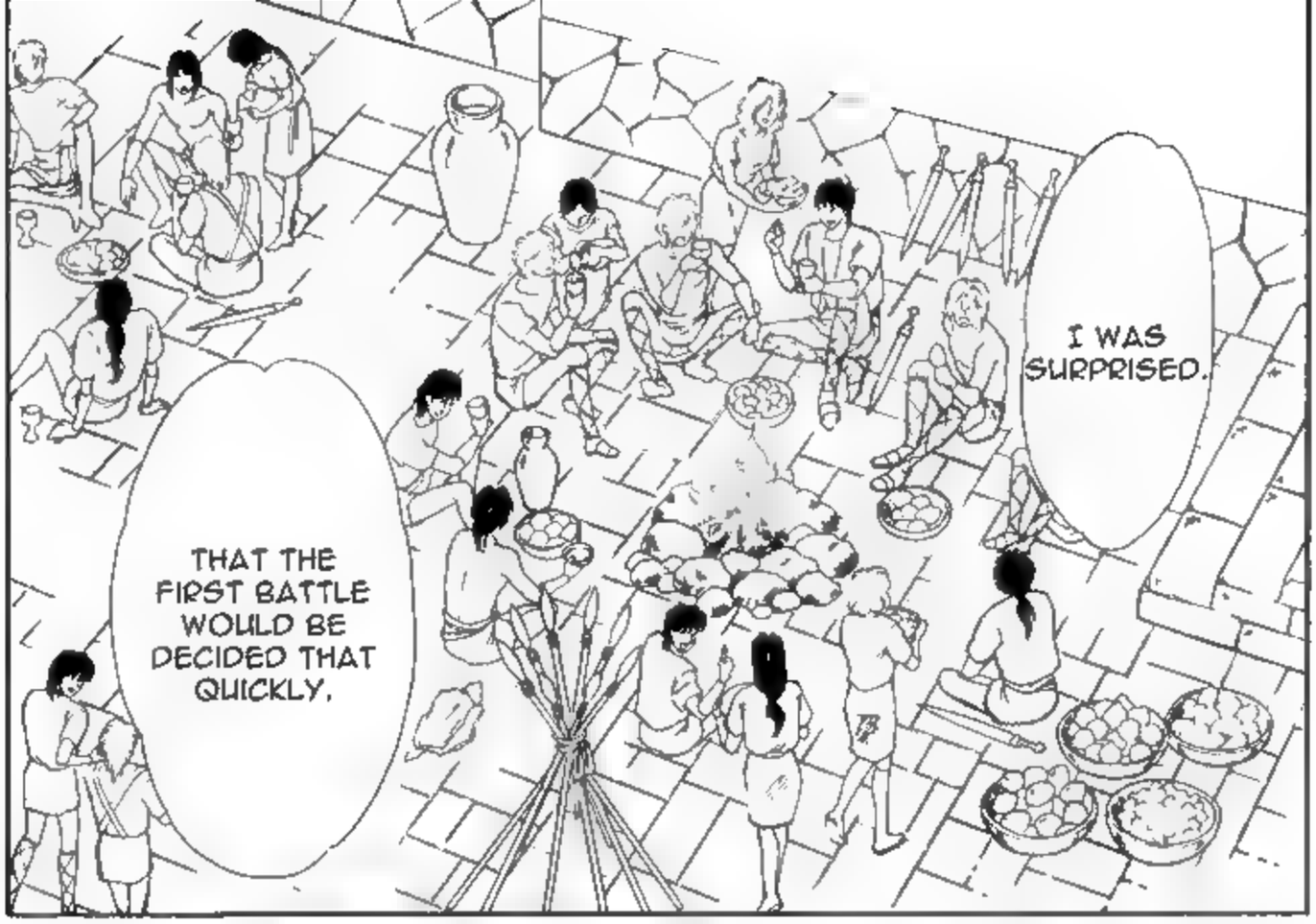
SOUND F/X. BUFUN. LIKE A "HMPH!" BUT FROM A HORSE
AH, I'M SORRY!
FORGIVE ME! SO PLEASE, I BEG OF YOU, HEAD OVER TO THAT GIRL.
HORSE!!
GO OVER THERE!! HURRY!!
SOUND F/X. DOKA DOKA DOKA DOKA. HORSE'S RUNNING
YUURI-SAMA'S OVER THERE!
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL BE FINE LEAVING THE CLEAN-UP TO THE SOLDIERS.
WHERE'S YUURI? LET'S GO HELP...

SOUND F/X: DOKA DOKA DOKA DOKA: HORSE'S RUNNING FOOTSTEPS
...What the...

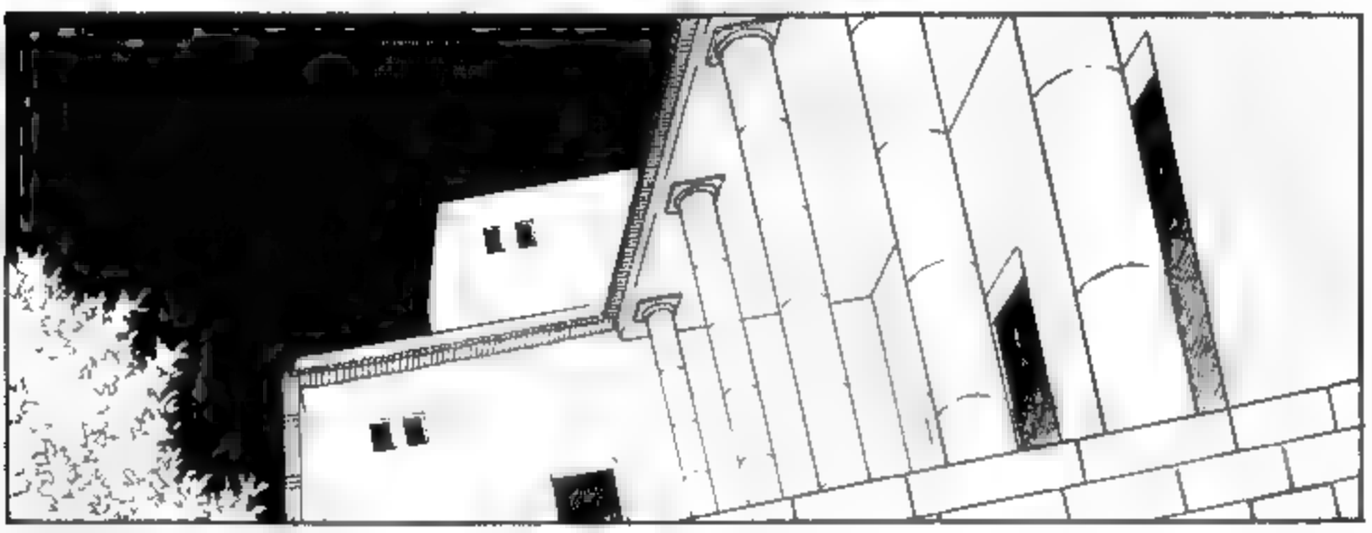

What a girl!


She instantly decided
the outcome of the
battle to recapture
Atinna!!

EVENING, THE BATTLE IS COMPLETELY OVER.
IN A SINGLE DAY, ARINNA IS RETURNED TO THE HANDS OF THE HITTITE ARMY.



LIKE HIS HIGHNESS KAIL SAID, SHE MUST HAVE BEEN SENT BY ISHTAR.
IN AN INSTANT, SHE DROVE THAT HORSE AND KNOCKED THOSE KASHGA AROUND.
OH, YOU MEAN YUURI-SAMA.
AND SHE'S HIS HIGHNESS KAIL'S CONCUBINE.
THAT TINY GIRL PLAYED A BIG PART, DIDN'T SHE?



NOTE· ISHTAR IS THE GODDESS OF WAR

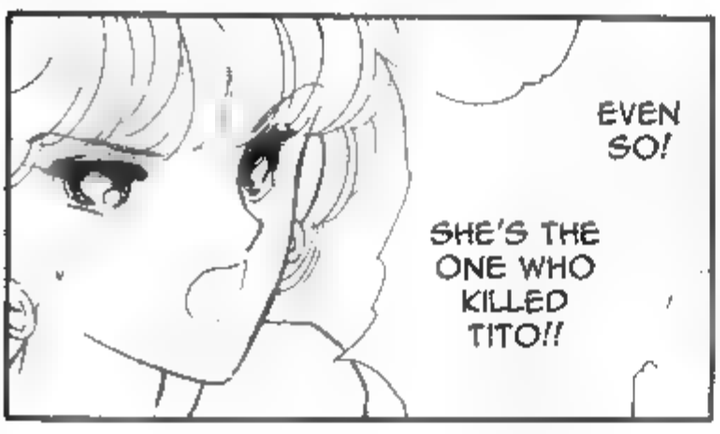
YUURI-SAMA, YOU'RE THE TALK OF THE ENTIRE TOWN.
THEY SAY YOU MIGHT BE ISHTAR'S AVATAR.
STOP JOKING,
I WAS JUST DESPERATELY RUNNING AWAY.
THIS IS ONLY BECAUSE PRINCE KAIL SAID I WAS SENT BY ISHTAR.
RIGHT, PRINCE!
...WELL, SURE...

STOP IT KIKKURI-SAN!
IF YOU GO OUT ON THE BALCONY AND WAVE THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY WILL BE PLEASED
...
But it definitely turned out like I said at that time...
I WAS ANXIOUS ABOUT WHAT HE WAS THINKING WHEN HE BROUGHT HIS CONCUBINE.
BUT OH, I SEE, I SEE.
OVER-SEER!
EXCUSE ME.
OH, IT'S THE ONE CHOSEN BY HIS HIGHNESS.

THEREFORE, THERE IS SOMETHING I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT TO YUURI-SAMA FROM THE CITY OF ARINNA...
ORIGINALLY, THIS HORSE WAS TO BE PRESENTED TO HIS EMPEROR'S HIGHNESS, BUT ITS SPIRIT IS A LITTLE WILD.
BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE A GOOD AFFINITY WITH YOU, YUURI-SAMA. PLEASE ACCEPT IT...
ブ"ィ ィ ン!
THAT HORSE!!
SOUND F/X BuFUN! THE HORSE 'HMPH!" AGAIN
HMM...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I SHOULD GIVE YUURI A DAGGER FOR SELF-DEFENSE TOO.
THEN, LET'S LOOK FOR SOMETHING... A SMALL BEAUTIFUL ONE THAT A WOMAN WOULD LIKE.
Aww,
But I don't care about a horse or a dagger or whatever.
Instead I...

WHAT THE HELL!!
YUURI SHOULD'VE BEEN KILLED UNDER THOSE CIRCUM-STANCES.

B... BUT...
THAT GIRL SAVED ME.


EVEN SO!
SHE'S THE ONE WHO KILLED TITO!!

Instead I want to have a talk with Tito's sisters and apologize.
After all, I didn't get a chance earlier in the confusion of the battle, so I still haven't had one chance to talk at leisure with them.

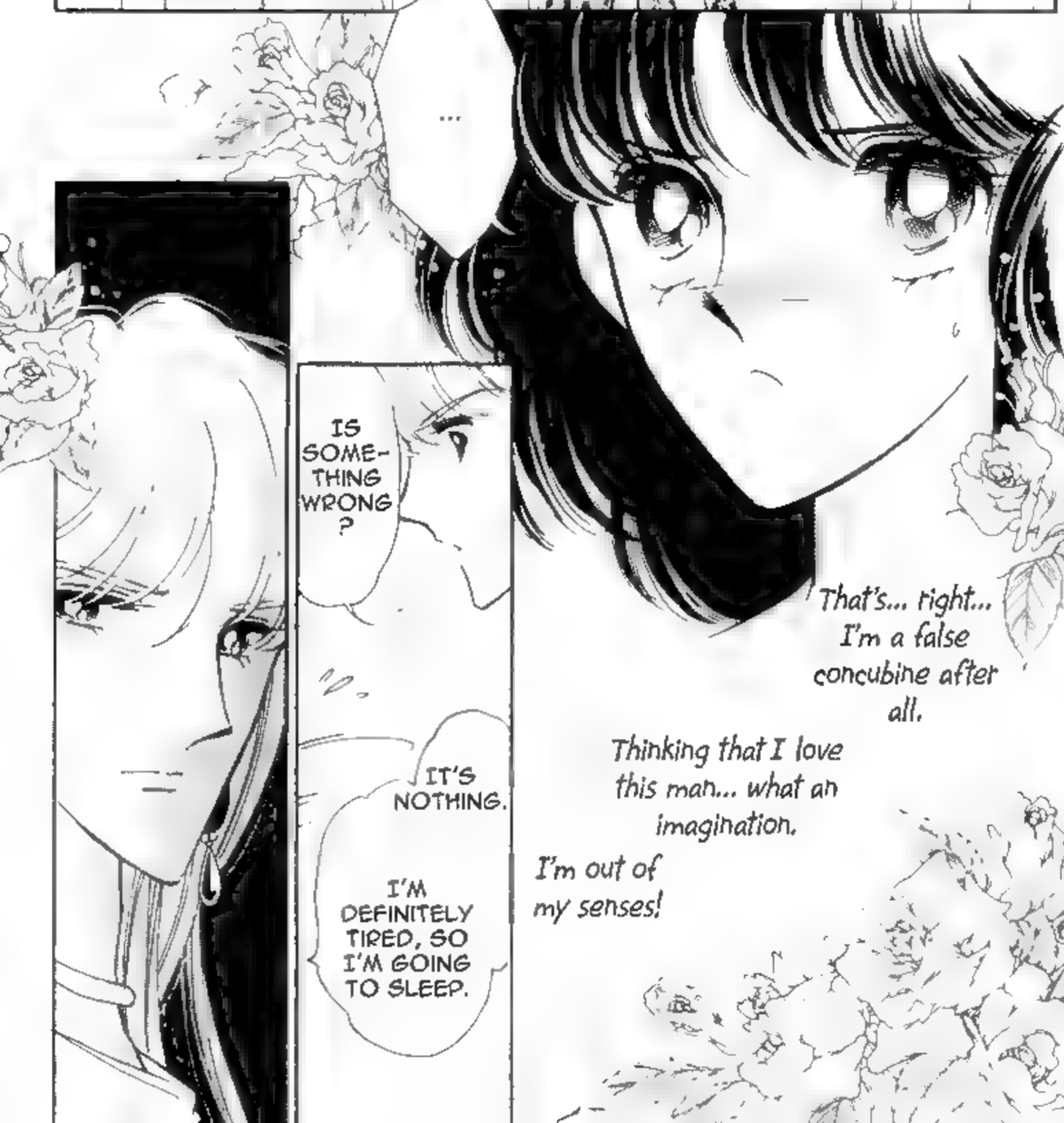
NOT EVEN THE THREE OF US CAN MATCH THE PRINCE'S SWORDSMANSHIP.
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE THE PRINCE WON'T LEAVE YUURI'S SIDE FOR EVEN AN INSTANT.
...THAT'S TRUE, BUT...
HAHAHA
YOUNG LADIES,
TAKE THIS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT SINCE THIS HAS HAPPENED, WE'LL HAVE TO KILL HER DIRECTLY WITH OUR HANDS!!

YOU... YOU WERE LISTENING TO OUR CONVERSATION JUST NOW!!
YOU...
THE ONE WHO INFORMED US ABOUT TITO...!!
LOOK AT THIS,
IT'S CALLED WHITE WATER.
キュル
I BEAR RESENTMENT TOWARDS THAT GIRL TOO... I'M HERE TO LEND A HAND.
YES, I HEARD IT... BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
SOUND F/X KYURU SQUEAK OF THE CONTAINER OPENING
ゲフ
メエ?
WHITE WATER?
SOUND F/X. GEFU COUGH
SOUND F/X POTA. DRIP
SOUND F/X MEI? GOAT CRY

SOUND F/X MEII GOAT CRY
SOUND F/X DOSA THUD
YES, EVEN FOR A HUMAN, TWO OR THREE DROPS IS ENOUGH.
... POISON ...!!
SIS!! IT'S DYING!
THE GOAT...!?
SO, IF YOU DROP SOME IN HER MOUTH WHEN YOU SEE A CHANCE, SHE'LL BE GONE IN AN INSTANT.
...

ARINNA: TEMPORARY SHRINE
TODAY WAS TIRING,
LET'S SLEEP SOON.
EXCUSE ME...
EH,
UH... UMMM...

AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE, THE FACT IS THAT YOU HAVE TO ACT AS MY PRINCESS.
IF YOU PLAN TO REMAIN IN THIS COUNTRY.
SHAPE UP. YOU HAVE TO GET USED TO SHARING A BEDROOM WITH ME.

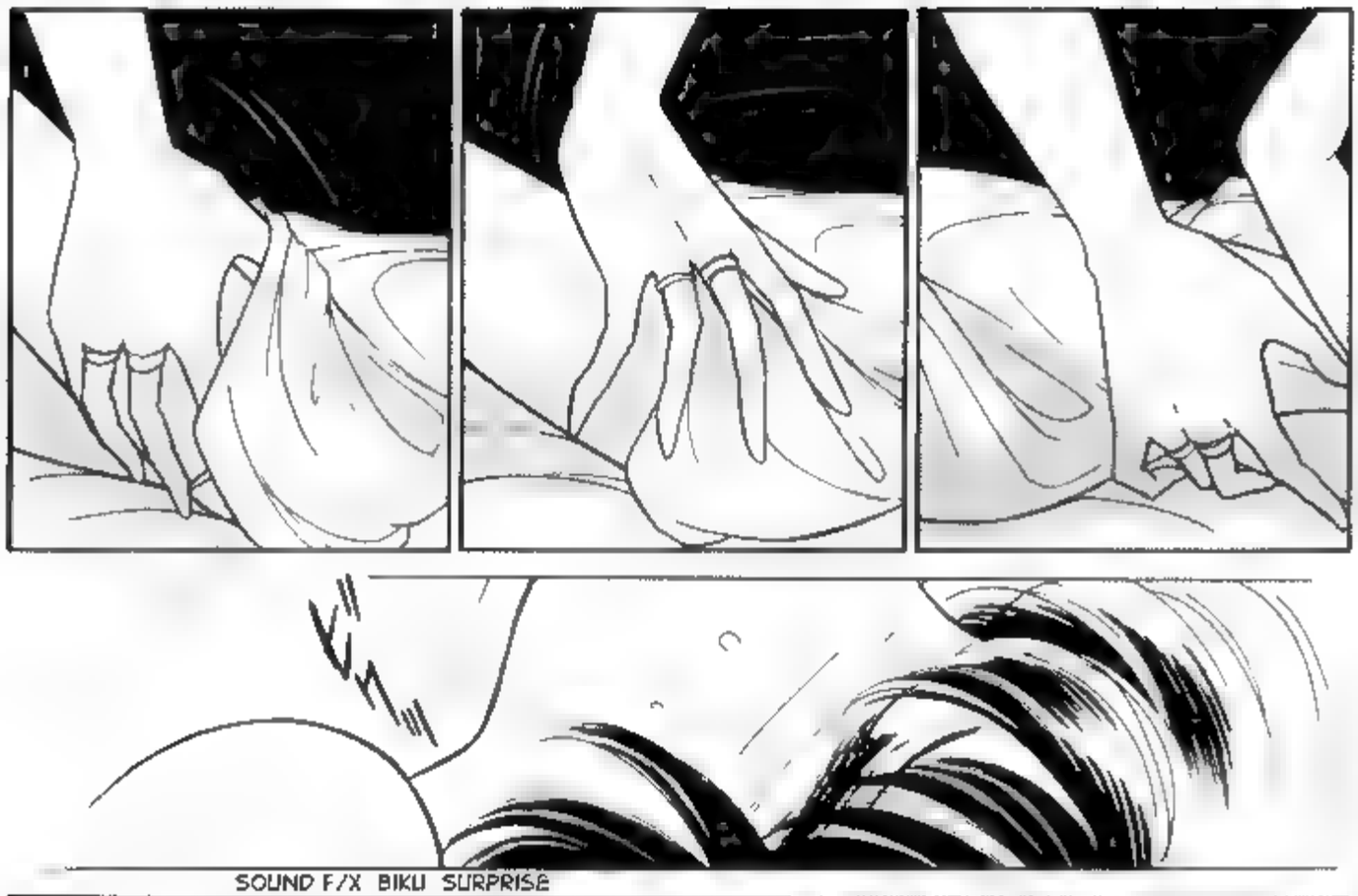

...
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
IT'S NOTHING.
I'M DEFINITELY TIRED, SO I'M GOING TO SLEEP.
That's... right... I'm a false concubine after all.
Thinking that I love this man... what an imagination.
I'm out of my senses!

SOUND F/X: DOKI: HEARTBEAT
...
PRINCE...? WHAT ARE YOU...

SOUND F/X SAWA.
KIND OF LIKE A
CARESSING SOUND
SOUND F/X HA.
A BREATH OF
SHOCK
!?
PRI...!?

...BE A GOOD GIRL.
STAY STILL, AND LEAVE IT TO ME.
...

天は赤い河のほとり②



SOUND F/X BIKU SURPRISE

SOUND F/X BASA. CURTIAN RUSTLING

SOUND F/X. SHU!
WHOOSH
YUURI!!
HAND OVER YOUR LIFE!
SOUND F/X BA SUDDEN APPEARANCE

YAAAA
!!
AA...!!
SOUND F/X GAKI
CLASH OF SWORDS

SOUND F/X. HAA HAA HAA. HEAVY BREATHING

SOUND F/X. SHURU SWORD SLIDING OUT OF SHEATH
GOOD BLOCK, YUURI!
HOLD IT, I WON'T LET YOU RUN.
WHO ARE YOU!?
AA!
SOUND F/X BASA. RUSTLING OF CLOTH

OH!!
SHALLA!? THE THREE SISTERS!!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?
TITO'S SISTERS!?
WE'RE MORE THAN PREPARED TO FACE THE DEATH PENALTY FOR BREAKING INTO YOUR HIGHNESS' BEDROOM!
BUT EVEN SO, WE'LL NEVER FORGIVE THE ONE WHO KILLED OUR YOUNGER BROTHER!!

WAIT, PRINCE!! LET ME EXPLAIN!!
BY 'THE ONE WHO KILLED TITO,' YOU MEAN YUURI?
SURELY, THAT'S...
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME!
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO TALK TO YOU FROM THE START.
IT'S TRUE THAT IT'S MY FAULT TITO DIED.
THE FIRST THING I WANTED TO SAY WAS... I'M SORRY.
I'M TRULY SORRY.

SOUND F/X. KYURU SQUEAK OF OPENING THE CONTAINER
キュル
UM, WHERE SHOULD I START FROM...
TO PUT IT SIMPLY, MY LIFE HAS BEEN TARGETED BY THE QUEEN ALL THIS TIME...
THEN WHEN IT SEEMED LIKE MY NECK WAS GOING TO BE CUT, TITO RESCUED ME.
BUT IN DOING SO, TITO WAS CAPTURED BY ZUWA OF THE KASHGA... AND WAS KILLED...
LIAR!!
WE HEARD STRAIGHT FROM HIS HIGHNESS KAIL'S SERVANT THAT TITO DIED BY YOUR HAND!!
"EVEN FOR A HUMAN, TWO OR THREE DROPS IS ENOUGH"
BUT AN APOLOGY ISN'T ENOUGH.
I DON'T THINK YOU CAN FORGIVE ME, THOUGH... I'M SORRY!!

!?
RYUI! SHALLA!
UNDER-STOOD!!
!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
SOUND F/X DON. SLAM

AA!!
SOUND F/X
GASH! GRAB
WHAT...
IF YOU WANT TO APOLOGIZE, TELL IT DIRECTLY TO TITO.
IN NERGAL'S REALM.
SOUND F/X
GUI. GRAB
NOTE: NERGAL IS THE GOD OF THE UNDERWORLD

SOUND F/X
POTATA: DRIP
AND I DIDN'T SEND A SERVANT EITHER!!
HUH?
HADI, WHAT YUURI SAID IS THE TRUTH.
IT WAS BY ZUWA'S HAND THAT TITO WAS KILLED AND HIS CHOKER WAS STOLEN.
SOUND F/X GOKUN GULP

SOUND F/X: BIKUN: SURPRISE
!!-DEEY
SHE...
SHE CAN'T BREATHE...
SOUND F/X: HIKU: HICCUP

SIS...!!
!! -RCCY
SOUND F/X: GOFU!!: COUGH

#MangaCo @ irc.AnimeCo.org
http://mangaco.ethereal-wind.net
&
#shoujomagic @ irc.mircx.com
http://shoujomagic.org/

Translation by Taisa
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I... can't... breathe...
What's happening!?
My chest burns!!
My throat burns!!

YUURI !!
KIKKULI!!
SHI-YUR
IS THERE NO ONE HERE!?
...
KIKKULI!

TAP
TAP
TAP
KIKKULI, CALL A DOCTOR QUICKLY!!
AN ALCHE-MIST AS WELL!!
SQUEAK
....
I'M HERE, LORD KAIL.
WHAT'S HAP...
Y... YES, RIGHT AWAY!!
GO QUICKLY !!
WHAT... WHAT HAPPENED TO LADY YUURI!?
!!
I... I DON'T KNOW...!
HADI, YOU MADE HER DRINK POISON, RIGHT?
WHAT KIND WAS IT!?

Her heartbeat is stopping...
My heart grows cold with fear faster than her body.
This cannot be! Yuuri will open her eyes again any moment!!
Open your eyes...!!
LORD KAIL,
THE DOCTOR AND THE ALCHEMIST ARE HERE!!

SHE DRANK POISON!
THERE'S NO TIME!!
HERE!! QUICKLY!!
...WELL?
WELL!!?

HER BREATHING AND HEARTBEAT HAVE ALREADY STOPPED.
... THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN DO.
WHAT... DID YOU SAY...?
... WE ARE TOO LATE...

SHE HAS PASSED AWAY.

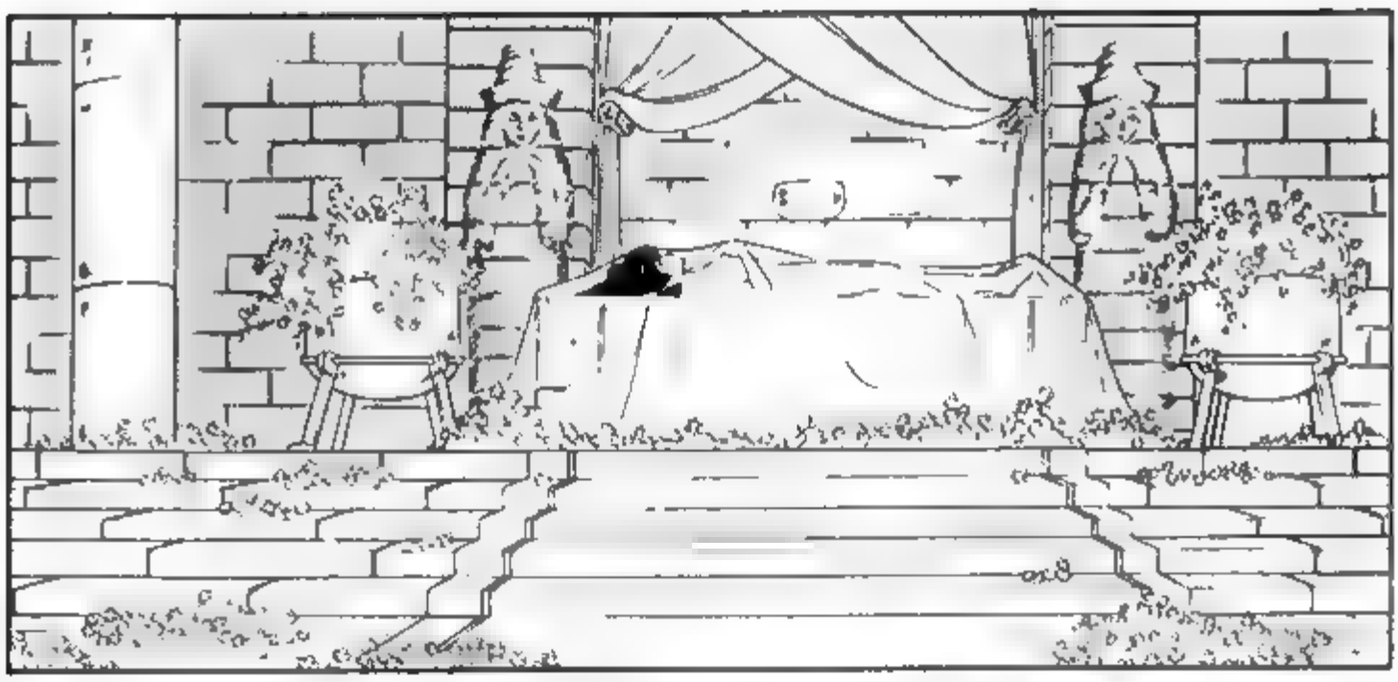
YUURI!?
This...
... It can't be...

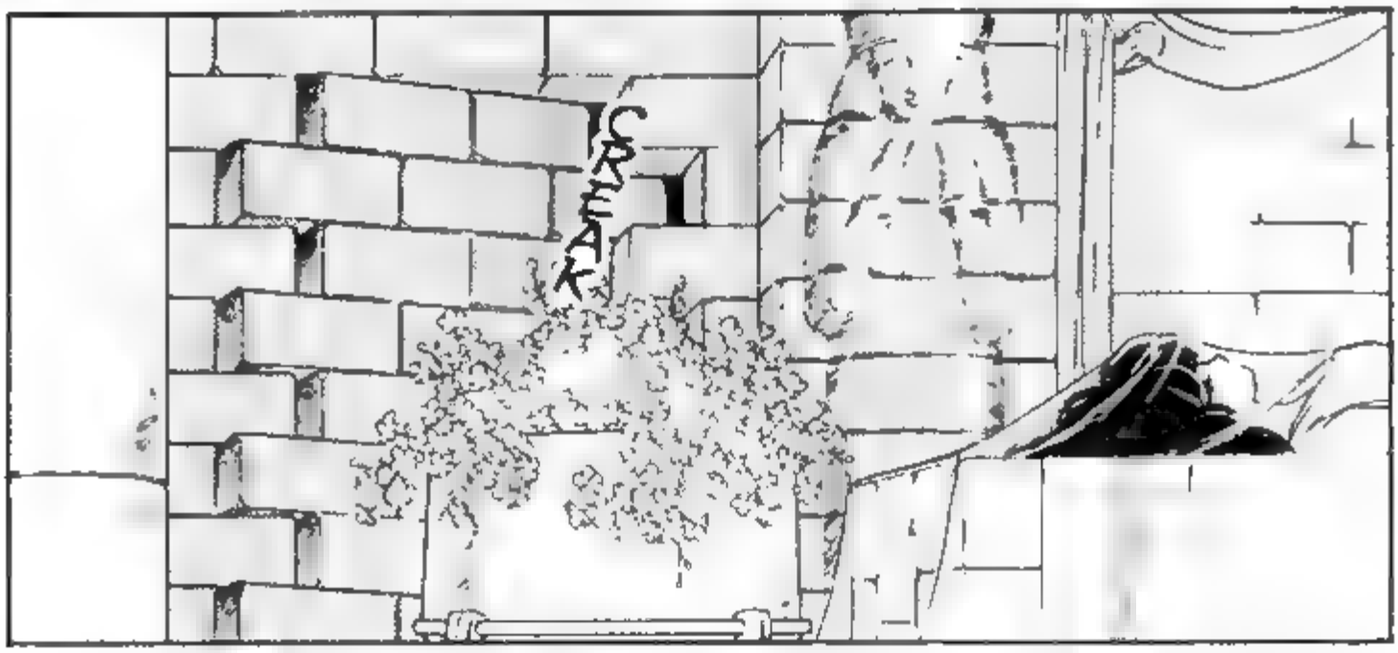
ISHTAR,
SHOULDN'T BE SO EASILY OVERCOME.
IT SEEMS THAT LADY YUURI PASSED AWAY.
HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
WHAT?
I HEARD HER BODY WAS MOVED FROM LORD KAIL'S PALACE TO THE GREAT TEMPLE A WHILE AGO.
IN THIS AGE OF WAR, EVERY COUNTRY WANTS THE DIVINE PROTECTION OF ISHTAR.
THAT'S FOR SURE.
HOW AWFUL.
AND JUST WHEN ISHTAR HAD ALLIED W TH THE HITTITES.
WHAT DID YOU SAY!!
IS IT TRUE!?

I'VE SERVED LORD KAIL SINCE CHILDHOOD, AND NEVER HAVE I SEEN HIM LIKE THIS...
...YES.
HAS HIS HIGHNESS BEEN LIKE THAT SINCE MORNING?
...KIKKULI?
LORD KAIL,
NOT EATING IS LIKE POISON TO THE BODY.
EVEN IN THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF IT, I WOULD HAVE FOUND A WAY TO SEND YUURI BACK TO HER HOME.
IF I'D KNOWN THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

... YOU'RE WRONG, KIKKULI.
I did not want to send her back.
YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF!
YUURI STAYED BEHIND OF HER OWN WILL...
YOU'RE WRONG!
In truth, I wished to keep her by my side always.

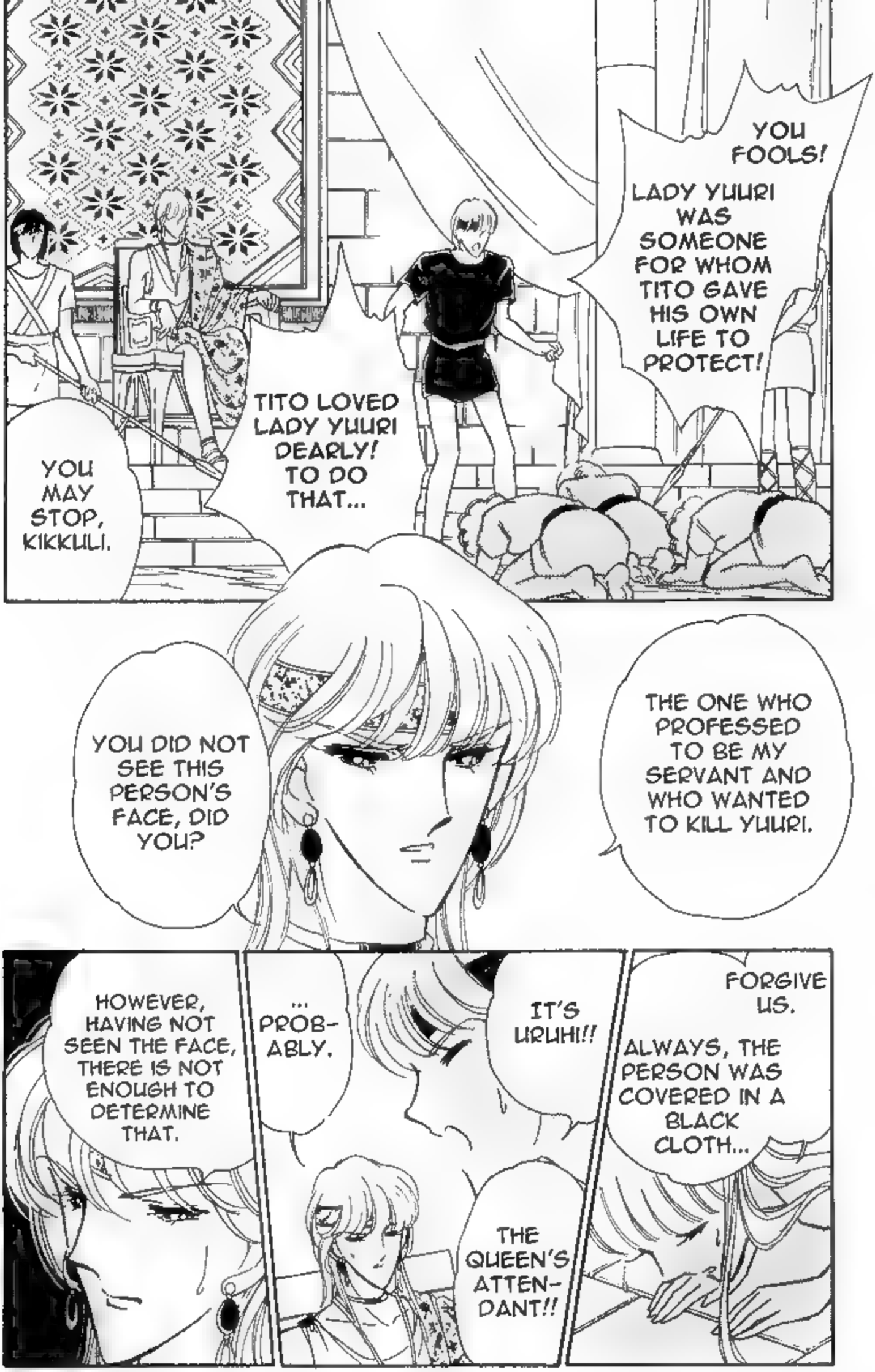
... I SEE. LET US GO, THEN.
PARDON THE INTRUSION, YOUR HIGHNESS.
THE INTERROGATION OF THE THREE SISTERS HADI, RYUI, AND SHARA IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.




CREAK

SSSADIM

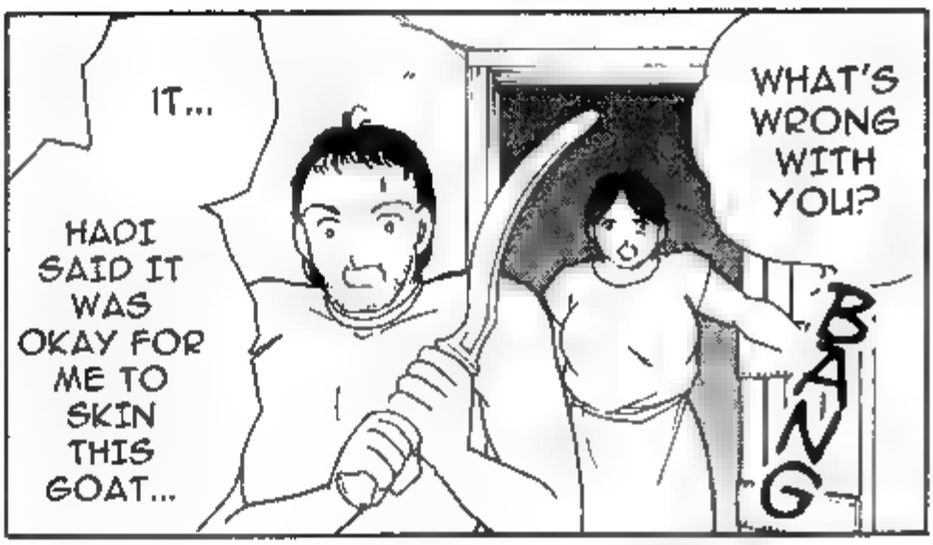
WE HAVE ACTED UNFORGIVABLY, AND CAN MAKE NO EXCUSE.
PUNISH US AS YOU WILL...!!


YOU FOOLS!
LADY YUURI WAS SOMEONE FOR WHOM TITO GAVE HIS OWN LIFE TO PROTECT!
TITO LOVED LADY YUURI DEARLY! TO DO THAT...
YOU MAY STOP, KIKKULI.
THE ONE WHO PROFESSED TO BE MY SERVANT AND WHO WANTED TO KILL YUURI.
YOU DID NOT SEE THIS PERSON'S FACE, DID YOU?
FORGIVE US.
ALWAYS, THE PERSON WAS COVERED IN A BLACK CLOTH...
IT'S URUHI!!
... PROB-ABLY.
HOWEVER, HAVING NOT SEEN THE FACE, THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TO DETERMINE THAT.
THE QUEEN'S ATTEN-DANT!!

ALWAYS VERY CLEVER.
THERE IS NO POISON LEFT,
AND THERE IS NOTHING TO TIE THE VIAL TO THE QUEEN.
YOUR HIGHNESS, FORGIVE ME,
BUT LADY YUURI'S BODY HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM THE GREAT TEMPLE!
WHAT...!?

SO THEN HOW COULD SOMEONE HAVE...
WE ARE TRULY SORRY.
GUARDS WERE POSTED AT EVERY ENTRANCE, BUT THEY SAW NOTHING.
THEN THE LADY QUEEN IS THE ONE AFTER ALL...
BUT WHY WOULD SHE WANT THE BODY...?
THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE LAYOUT MAP OF EACH TEMPLE IS THE TEMPLE'S HIGH PRIEST.
THIS TEMPLE WORSHIPS THE SUN GODDESS HEBAT, WIFE OF TESHUB, MEANING THE HIGH PRIEST IS...
THE LADY QUEEN!
LORD KAIL?
THE IMPERIAL PALACE AND HIGH-STATUS TEMPLES HAVE SECRET DOORS PREPARED IN CASE THERE IS AN EMERGENCY.
THEY USED A SECRET DOOR.

I see. The Queen's plan is not to simply kill Yuuri,
But to use her as a living sacrifice.
There would be no meaning in killing her with poison.
...COULD IT BE?
AAAAAAHHH!


IT...
HADI SAID IT WAS OKAY FOR ME TO SKIN THIS GOAT...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
BANG

Y-YEAH.
BUT... IT'S...
AH, SHE SAID IT DIED FROM POISON SO THE MEAT WAS NO GOOD, BUT THE SKIN WAS FINE.

IT CAME BACK TO LIFE.
WOOOOO-HU
MEEEH

WOULDN'T THAT BE OKAY? — ... YOU KNOW.
I hear someone's voice speaking... Whose...?
It's like a haze is hanging in my head.
... I SAY.
—LET ME.
DRIP
... My body... feels heavy...
DRIP
DRIP
NO! THE GIRL SHALL BE TAKEN TO THE LADY QUEEN, AND THERE WILL HER THROAT BE SLIT!!

TO CURSE, ALL THE QUEEN NEEDS IS FOR THE BLOOD TO FLOW FROM THE GIRL'S NECK,
SO IT MAKES NO DIF-FERENCE IF WE DO IT HERE!!
THOUGH THAT MAY BE, MY LADY QUEEN WISHES THE RITUAL TO BE CARRIED OUT PRECISELY, AND SO WILL SEE TO SLICING HER NECK!!
The Queen's attendant and Zuwa...!?
IT WILL BE DONE AFTER WE RETURN TO HATTUSA!!
WE CAN SETTLE IT HERE.
GIVE ME HER BODY, AND I WILL PEEL OFF HER SKIN.
I...
What am I doing here...
That's... that's right. Doesn't matter that I'm here. Matters that I run!

LITTLE GIRL,
AWAKE, ARE YOU?
GRUNBLE

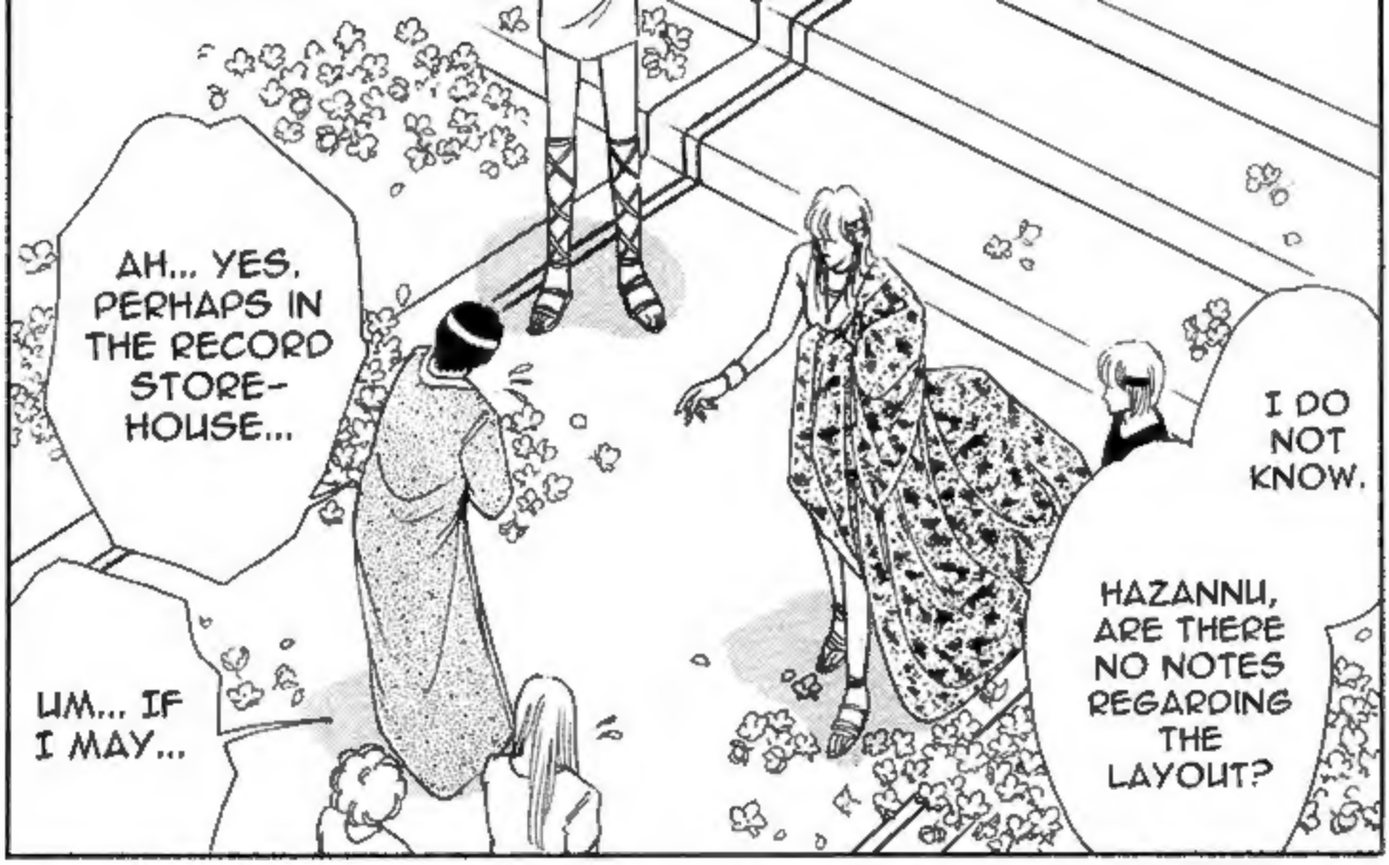
ヒュッ

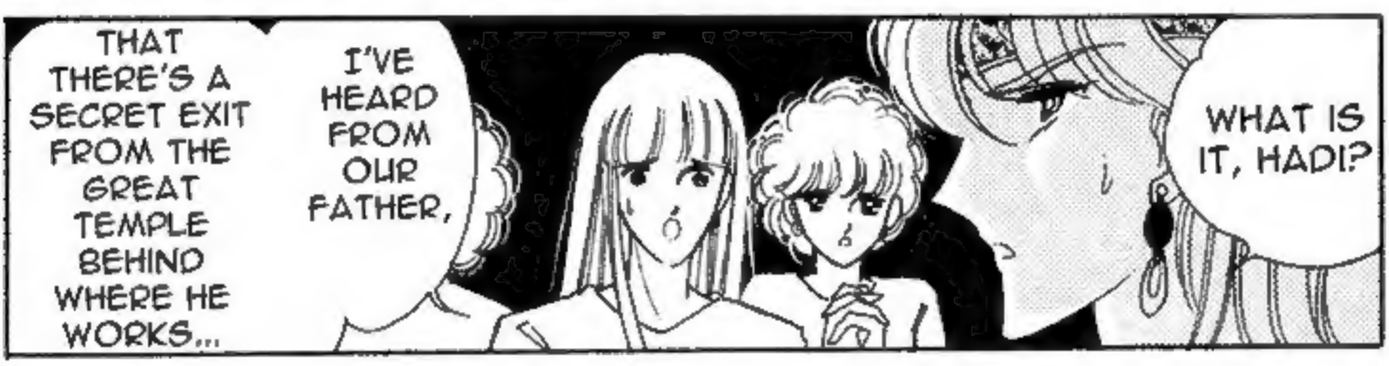
I TOLD YOU NOT TO DRAW YOUR SWORD RECKLESSLY!!
SOUND F/X
CRUMBLE CRUMBLE
ZUWA!!
WHERE IS PRINCE KAIL!?
WHA... WHAT IS THIS UNDERGROUND PASSAGE?
WHAT DOES IT CONNECT TO!?
LIGHT!?

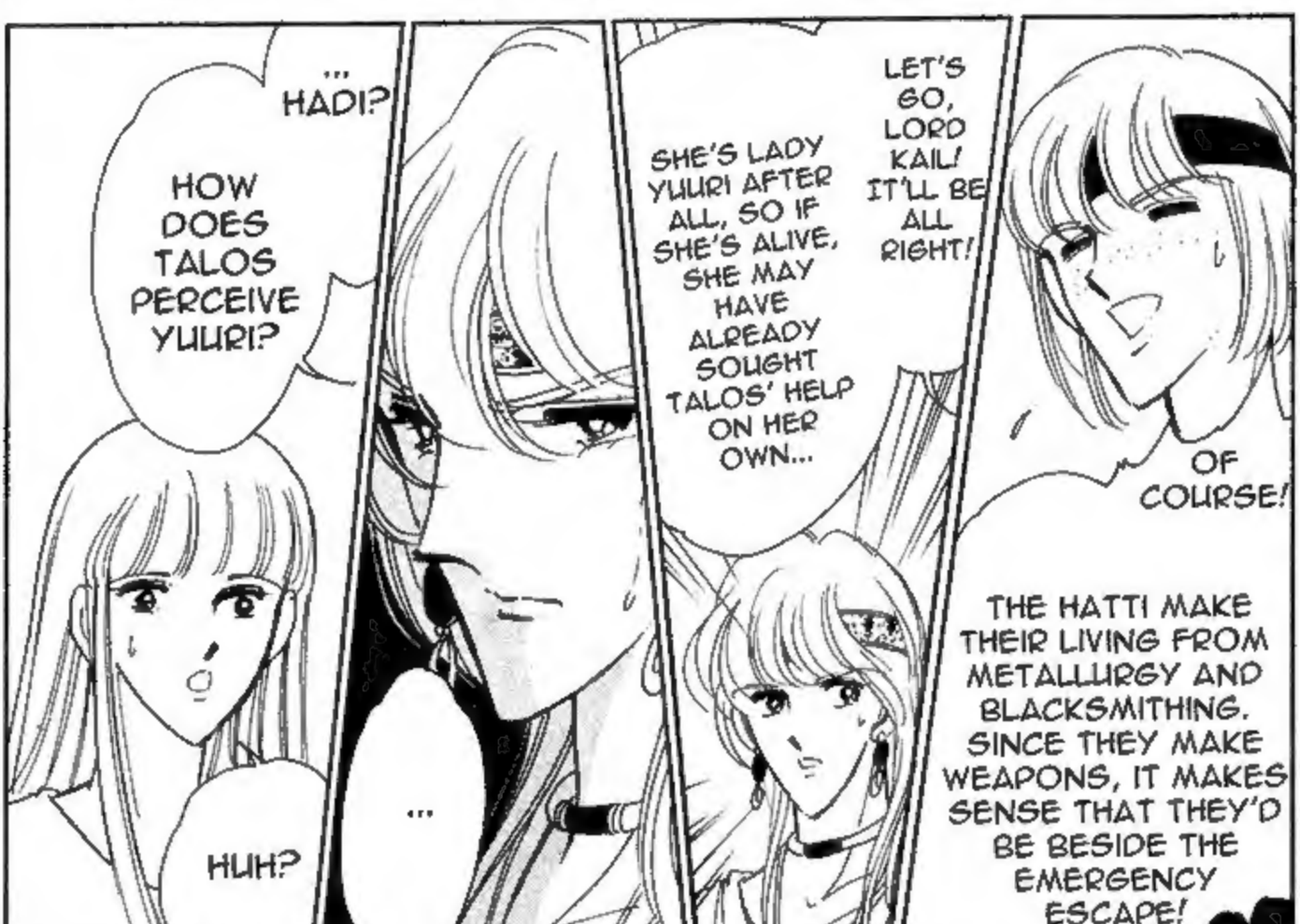
CLATTER
IT'S THE OUTSIDE!!
CRUMBLE
CLATTER
GRIND
!!
!?

WHO ARE YOU?
I... I'M YUUKI.
THIS IS A SECRET EXIT FROM THE TEMPLE OF THE SUN GODDESS HEBAT.
I'D ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHAT I'M DOING HERE...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

WHO...
WHO ARE YOU!?
LORD KAIL,
HAVE YOU NO CLUE AS TO WHERE THE SECRET PASSAGE LEADS?
YUURI!?
THE ONE WHO IS SAID TO BE THE FIRST CONCUBINE ACCEPTED BY LORD KAIL?






... HADI?
HOW DOES TALOS PERCEIVE YUURI?
HUH?
...
SHE'S LADY YUURI AFTER ALL, SO IF SHE'S ALIVE, SHE MAY HAVE ALREADY SOUGHT TALOS' HELP ON HER OWN...
LET'S GO, LORD KAIL! IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
OF COURSE!
THE HATTI MAKE THEIR LIVING FROM METALLURGY AND BLACKSMITHING. SINCE THEY MAKE WEAPONS, IT MAKES SENSE THAT THEY'D BE BESIDE THE EMERGENCY ESCAPE!

TRANSLATION NOTE: HAZANNU
MEANING SOMETHING CLOSE TO MAYOR OR OVERSEER

DOES HE NOT ALSO BELIEVE AS YOU DID THAT YUURI IS TITO'S ENEMY?
... MY NAME?
MY NAME IS TALOS.
TALOS...?
Talos... I have the feeling I've heard that name somewhere before...

LITTLE GIRL!
WHERE ARE YOU!? YOU WON'T GET AWAY!
HMPH.
SO YOU HAVE NO MEMORY OF MY NAME.
ZUWA!!
I'M SORRY, BUT PLEASE FORGET YOU SAW ME!!
I'M BEING CHASED!!
SOUND F/X: DA: RUNNING
KA
SOUND F/X: PITA: STOP

<HEAVEN IS BESIDE THE RED RIVER> (2)"END"
SERIALIZED IN 1995, SHOUJO COMIC #3